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Fitial files lawsuit against feds

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POLL RESULTS

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Sunday, September 14, 2008

1 DAY until Sept. 16, when Aggreko generators are to start working

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Rescuers in boats, helicopters and high-water trucks fanned out along the flood-stricken Texas coast Saturday in a monumental effort to reach tens of thousands of people who stubbornly ignored warnings and tried to ride out Hurricane Ike.

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"The economic experts from all sides agree that this legislation will harm our tourist industry because it will take away the labor pool that supports our hotels and other visitor services... It also takes away the labor pool that makes foreign investors willing to invest in our economy."

—Gov. Benigno R. Fitial

By **STEFAN SEBASTIAN**
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BUSINESS EDITOR AND

AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

In a bid to block the pending federal takeover of the CNMI's immigration system, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial filed a much-anticipated lawsuit Friday against federal authorities, saying the legislation behind it threatens to cripple the local economy and breaches the terms of the Commonwealth's Covenant with the United States.

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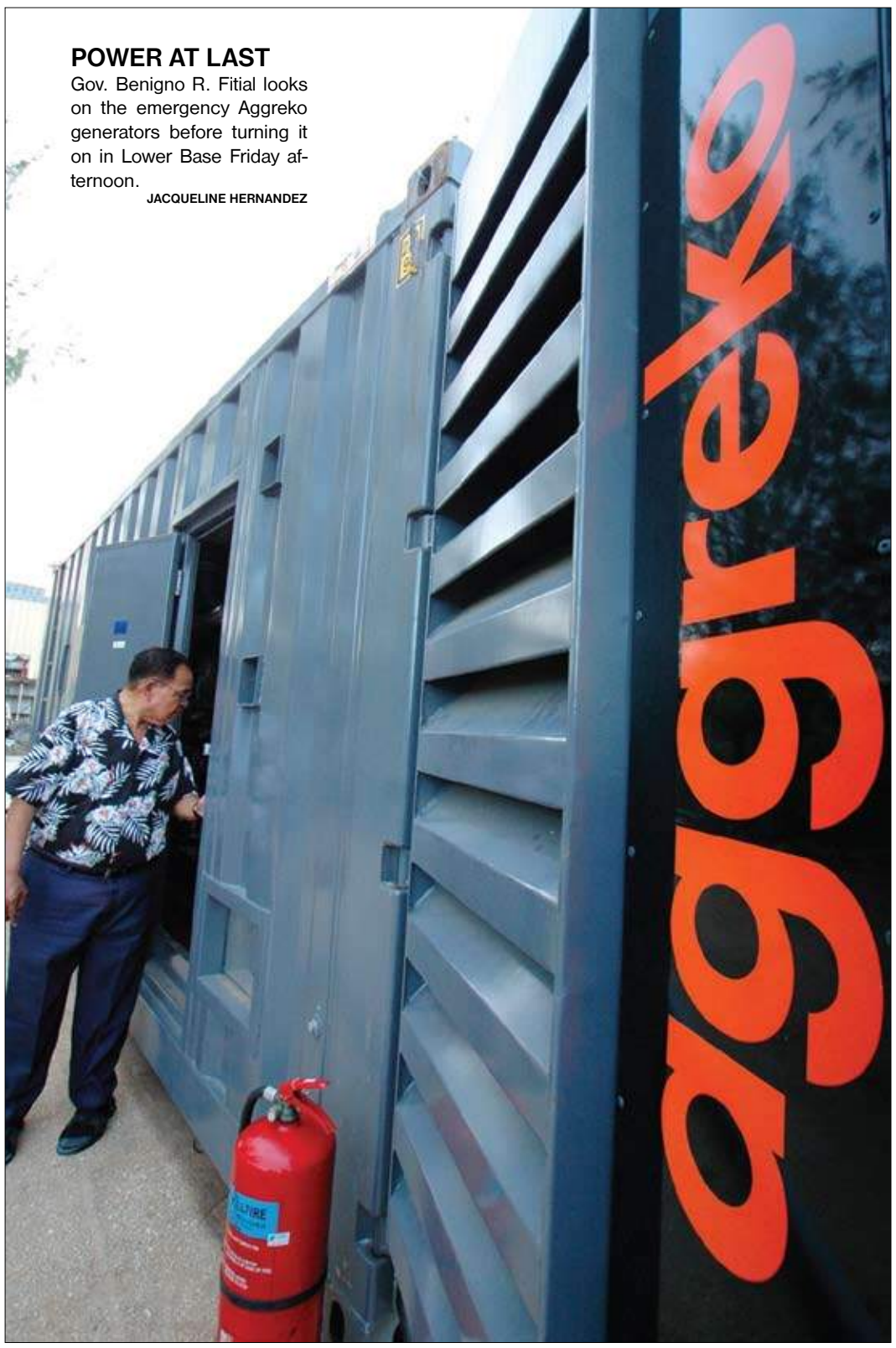

POWER AT LAST
Gov. Benigno R. Fitial looks on the emergency Aggreko generators before turning it on in Lower Base Friday afternoon.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

FOLLOWING MIURA EXTRADITION ORDER

Warfield: We're done

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Warfield

"We're done!" Thus stated assistant attorney general Jeffery L. Warfield Sr. shortly after Superior Court associate judge Ramona V. Manglona on Friday denied Kazuyoshi Miura's petition for habeas corpus and ordered his extradition to Los Angeles, California.

See WARFIELD on Page 4

'Interest but no offers on sale of Tinian Dynasty'

By **STEFAN SEBASTIAN**
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BUSINESS EDITOR

Korean investors are eying the prospect of buying the Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino but have yet to give any concrete offer for the multi-million dollar property, its management

See INTEREST on Page 4

Hans Mickelson

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Local

REMEMBERING 9-11
A banner in remembrance of all the victims of 9-11 is displayed during Saipan's first "Freedom Walk" at the American Memorial Park Thursday night.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

32 running for seats in CNMI Youth Congress

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

Thirty-two candidates are in the running for CNMI Youth Congress seats in the election to be held today.

The Youth Congress has 24 seats, including 14 for the schools and 10 for the election precincts. However, only 23 seats are up for grabs this year; Calvary Christian Academy is not participating.

Two incumbent members are seeking reelection: Christian A. Yamada from Kagman High School and Alana May DLG. Leon Guerrero from Precinct III.

The school candidates' roll includes Kimberly B. Hofschneider, Grace Christian Academy; Seong Bin Lee and So Young Lee, Marianas Baptist Academy; Min Kyung Kim, Mount Carmel School; Sunny Frank L. Aldan and Ga Young Jeon, Northern Marianas Academy; Vicky Jean Castro, Min Seon Park, Aesha De-Brum Sablan, and Charlyn S. Techur, Northern Marianas College; Annie C. Camacho and Madison Julia Schultz, Saipan International School; Sung Yul Baik and Leilani S. Cepeda, Marianas High School; Jessel M. Mesa and Yamada, Kagman High School; Johora A. Paeda and Sylvino O. Taisacan, Rota High School; Maria Grace Madeline B. Alvarez, Saipan Southern High School; and Marisa D. Untalan, Tinian High School.

The precinct candidates are Bianca K. Blanco, Andrew C. Benavente, Tharnton T. Masayos, and Jessamin C. Santos, Precinct I; Adeleyah Charlotte Mojica, Precinct II; You Mi Lee, Leon Guerrero, and Thomas Rios Rabauliman, Precinct III; Maegan T. Norita, Precinct IV; Quina Marie P. Mendiola, Precinct V; and John A. Ayuyu and Viony Lynn M. Hocog, Precinct VI.

Voting will take place at Saipan schools from 8am to 12pm, and at Saipan precincts from 2pm to 6pm. All Tinian voters may cast their ballots at Tinian High School from 8am to 4pm. For Rota, the voting will be conducted at Rota High School from 8am to 4pm.

Each high school—public or private—gets one seat, while NMC has three. Meanwhile, Precincts I and III get three seats each, and the four other precincts get one each.

Employee contribution to NMIRF to increase Oct. 1

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

Government workers can expect a larger deduction from their paychecks beginning next month, as their share of pension contribution goes up.

The NMI Retirement Fund has announced that beginning Oct. 1, 2008, the employee contribution rate for the defined benefit plan will increase to 8.5 percent for Class I members and 11 percent for Class II members.

Currently, Class I members of the defined benefit plan pay 7.5 percent of their salary to the Retirement Fund. Class II members pay 10 percent.

The increase comes according to a law Gov. Benigno R. Fitial signed last year. Under the law, the rate for Class I members will continue to increase by one percent a year until it reaches 10.5 percent in fiscal year 2011. The rate for Class II members will remain at 11 percent.

Each year, an actuarial valuation study is commissioned to determine the new pension contribution rates. The new rate that the government is supposed to pay has yet to be announced.

For the current fiscal year, the actuarially recommended employer share is 36.77 percent of an employee's salary. However, the government has not paid the full rate since 2006. Instead, legislation has been passed to reduce the government contribution to as low as 11 percent.

According to the Retirement Fund, as of Sept. 30, 2007, the CNMI government owed the pension program $132 million in employer contributions, excluding penalties and interest.

Because of the government's pension debt, the NMI Retirement Fund has stopped processing new applications for retirement. As a result, government employees who have paid their share and who are due for retirement cannot retire.

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AGO prosecutes 26 people

The Attorney General's Office last week filed separate cases against 26 people for allegedly committing various offenses.

Chief Prosecutor Kevin Lynch filed the cases in the Superior Court. The defendants were summoned to appear and answer the charges in court.

Charged were Marcelo T. Lisua, Kfis Kris Pino, William B. Salas, Daisuke Yanai, Erinie N. Alden, Gregory C. Sablan, Chunzhen Chen, Guiliang Gao, Jose Blas Manglona Jr., Abul Abul, Edward J. Castro, Robert Jake Palacios, Maurila Salom, Michael Jordan Cabrera, and Francisco DLG. Camacho.

Also charged were Anthony Ada Pangelinan, Allan Zackrias, Richard Duenas, Patrick Sones, Tatiana Abkadyrova, Rong Jian Xiao, Hyoung Keun Oh, Antonio B. Evangelista, Ramon A. Bermudes, Nely Gabriel Dancel, and Danilo D. Ibrao.

Lisua was charged with assault and battery and criminal mischief for hitting a household member in the head and damaging the windshield of the victim's car on July 15, 2007.

Pino was charged with two counts of assault and battery for beating up a household member on Feb. 13, 2007.

Salas was charged with assault and battery for pushing and throwing against the wall his former wife on May 16, 2007.

Yanai was charged with assault and battery for repeatedly punching his wife on March 26, 2007.

Alden was charged with two counts of assault with a dangerous weapon and one count of assault and battery for hitting a family member with a picnic table and a piece of wood on July 22, 2007.

Sablan was charged with assault and battery, two counts of interfering with a domestic violence report, and one count of disturbing the peace.

Sablan allegedly kicked his wife in the back and pulled the phone line from the phone when the victim was attempting to call 911 on April 24, 2007. He also allegedly grabbed her cellphone and locked it in a room.

Chen was charged with assault and battery for holding a woman on the ground and punching her forehead on May 4, 2007.

Gao was charged with three counts of assault and battery and one count of disturbing the peace. He allegedly hit a woman on the back with a lighted cigarette, kicked her on the leg and punched her repeatedly in the head on July 11 and 17, 2007.

Manglona was charged with assault and battery, and criminal mischief. He allegedly beat up his spouse and tore her pants on May 8, 2007 on Tinian.

Abul was charged with assault and battery for beating up a household member on Tinian on Sept. 5, 2007.

Castro and Palacios were charged with assault and battery for repeatedly punching and kicking a man on April 13, 2008.

Salom was charged with assault and battery for hitting her mother on the arm with an umbrella several times on April 20, 2007.

Cabrera was charged with burglary for breaking into a residence on Jan. 25, 2007.

Camacho was charged with assault and battery for threatening a household member with a knife and pushed her to the bed on June 29, 2007.

Pangelinan was charged with assault and battery for punching a woman several times in the presence of a child on May 26, 2007.

Zackrias was charged with assault and battery for throwing an ashtray at a family member and hit her with it on May 8, 2007.

Duenas was charged with assault and battery, and minor consuming alcohol. He allegedly hit a man and kicked him on July 25, 2008.

Sones was charged with theft for stealing a mountain bicycle worth $120 belonging to a man on March 4, 2008.

Abkadyrova was charged with theft of service and resisting arrest. She allegedly refused to pay $15 worth of drinks from a bar and kicked a policewoman on June 23, 2008.

Xiao was charged with criminal mischief for damaging a man's TV set and VCD player on July 2, 2008.

Oh was charged with assault and battery for pushing his wife on Dec. 8, 2007.

Evangelista was charged with assault and battery for punching and kicking a man in the face on Tinian on Sept. 15, 2007.

Bermudes was charged with two counts of assault and battery, and one count of criminal mischief. He allegedly punched a woman on the forehead and threw a rock at her back on Aug. 9, 2008. He allegedly caused scratches and dents to the victim's car.

Dancel was charged with assault and battery for hitting a man in the back of his head with a rock on June 24, 2007 on Tinian.

Ibrao was charged with two counts of assault and battery for slapping a household member and grabbed her arm on July 26, 2007. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Calling on CNMI Delegate candidates

The people of Kagman and Precinct 5 would like to get to know all the candidates for the CNMI Delegate position. The community will be having a public forum on Sept. 20 at 5pm at the Kagman Community Center. It will be hosted by the Kagman Komunidat Association. Candidates will get the chance to present themselves and where they stand.

If you are interested in meeting with the Kagman and Precinct 5 public, contact the Kagman Komunidat Association president Jesse Torres at balutan@balutanbox.com for more info. ***(PR)***

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WARFIELD

From Page 1

In an interview with *Saipan Tribune* after Friday's hearing, Warfield said once Miura leaves Saipan it becomes the Japanese businessman's issue of guilt or innocence.

"And again we have absolutely nothing to do that. And that's the thing we've tried to say over and over again. We are not here to decide whether he killed his wife or not. It's not what we do," he said.

Warfield stressed that the only responsibility of the CNMI government, through the Attorney General's Office, is to send the 61-year-old Miura to California because he is wanted there.

After Manglona rendered her oral decision on Friday, the prosecutor immediately contacted the L.A. District Attorney's Office to inform them about the ruling.

"If California sends its agents out here. They get out quickly. Yes, he (Miura) could be extradited," Warfield said.

Meanwhile, following Manglona's decision more members of the Japanese media started arriving on the island over the weekend. Anticipating that Miura may be taken out from his detention cell anytime due to the court decision, some Japanese journalists camped out in front of the Department of Corrections in Susupe while others posted at the Saipan airport Friday night to Sunday early morning.

Press Secretary Charles Reyes Jr. said yesterday that the AGO will hold a media briefing today, Monday, at the CNMI courthouse at 11am. He said the briefing is primarily intended for the Japanese media, but that local reporters are also invited to join.

After announcing her decision on Friday, Judge Manglona stated that Miura has the right to appeal.

Miura's lawyers filed that afternoon an emergency motion for a stay of extradition and removal before the CNMI Supreme Court, pending their appeal. The high court has not acted on the motion yet.

Miura is facing murder and conspiracy to commit murder charges in L.A. in connection with the killing of his wife in 1981. The L.A. court is expected to issue a ruling in his motions to quash the warrant and dismiss the case by Sept. 26, 2008.

Miura has been fighting his extradition case since he was arrested at the Saipan airport last February.

INTEREST

From Page 1

said Sunday.

In an email, Tinian Dynasty managing director Alfred Yue said some Korean firms have shown interest in building new hotels on Tinian and "of course, some of them talk to us also."

But despite persistent rumors circulating on the island about the pending sale of the sprawling resort complex, he added, an offer has yet to emerge.

"There are people knocking at the door but no one has come in yet," Yue said. "There is lots of speculation but most of it is out of proportion."

Yue stopped short of revealing whether the Dynasty's owners would sell the casino if a prospective buyer made a fitting offer.

Opened in 1998, the Tinian Dynasty is the largest and most extravagant hotel on the island, complete with a hundreds of rooms, several restaurants and a shopping wing. The resort has hosted major poker tournaments and developed a reputation as a popular destination for Chinese tourists.

However, staff at the Dynasty report it has fallen on tough financial times recently, like many major hotels in the CNMI, due to the rising cost of electricity and a diminished tourism market.

The Dynasty's casino, for example, now has a black curtain blocking patrons' access to most of it in a bid to curtail utility costs.

Yet on a brighter note, the Dynasty's business could pick up in the near future with the anticipated return of direct Shanghai-to-Saipan airline service. In a statement, the Dynasty, Century Tours, and the Marianas Visitors Authority last week said flights along that route will recommence Sept. 29 on a twice weekly schedule.

FITIAL

From Page 1

Local lawmakers have already taken issue with the suit, including some who are raising serious questions about his use of unallocated government money to fund it. A joint House and Senate committee is expected to release a report today listing a host of objections to the litigation.

Filed in the U.S. District Court for the District Columbia—which is often the venue for challenges to federal regulations—against the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of Labor, the suit contends that the law President Bush signed earlier this year establishing federal immigration controls in the CNMI will violate the promises of self-government and economic development detailed in the Covenant.

Moreover, scores of foreign workers and investors—key segments of the local economy—likely will have to leave the CNMI under the newly enacted bill, harming local businesses that depend on them, the suit says.

"The economic experts from all sides agree that this legislation will harm our tourist industry because it will take away the labor pool that supports our hotels and other visitor services," Fitial said in a statement Sunday. "It also takes away the labor pool that makes foreign investors willing to invest in our economy."

The lawsuit

The so-called "federalization" of the CNMI's rules for foreign workers has proven one of the most hotly contested local issues of the day, with proponents saying, among other arguments, that it will safeguard guest workers against abuse by employers, and opponents railing that it will devastate businesses dependent on alien labor. DHS and DOL are now crafting regulations based on the legislation authorizing it, which are due for release later this year.

The lawsuit asks the court for a permanent injunction barring federal officials from putting the federalization bill into action.

"[T]he relationship between the United States and the Commonwealth does permit the United States to apply federal immigration laws to the CNMI," the suit says. "In at least two core respects, however, [the bill] goes beyond the mere application of federal immigration laws to the CNMI, and it thereby impermissibly violates the fundamental right of self-governance that was guaranteed to the Commonwealth as part of the Covenant, as well as the commitment to economic development."

Among those two respects, the suit says, is the decrease in the number of foreign workers the legislation requires, a mandate that will "devastate the employment base and local economy of the CNMI, rendering the islands almost wholly dependent upon voluntary assistance from the United States."

Imposing a federally controlled immigration system is the second. Under the new law, DHS will begin administering the regulation of all foreign workers in the CNMI, a prospect that the suit says is "the anti-thesis of local self-governance, as guaranteed to the Commonwealth."

Moreover, the suit attacks federalization on constitutional grounds, saying the CNMI's lack of representation in Congress during debate on the issue "violates constitutional limitations on the power of Congress" and the forced removal of foreign workers would violate the "rights of due process and equal protection of the CNMI's people, employers, and property owners."

Pointing to the recent economic downturn the CNMI has suffered, the suit adds that federalization will compound the problems local businesses have faced due to increases in the minimum wage and a variety of challenges with finding the employees they need.

"The Commonwealth's economy can be resuscitated only through a renewed influx of foreign investment and the presence of a stable workforce able to support construction and new economic development," it says.

Paying for it

Meanwhile, serious questions have emerged about how the Fitial administration is funding the lawsuit. In his Sunday statement, the governor says he "will not use any funds currently available for public services for this case" yet his spokesman, Charles Reyes, acknowledged in an interview that money obtained through government settlements will pay for it.

Money from several settlements is due to the government and has yet to be allocated to any public purpose, Reyes noted, declining to give specifics on which settlements will fund the suit.

"The government has various claims and all kinds of claims against private individuals—a lawsuit might be one of those—where the government prevailed and where new money can be brought in that is not currently allocated [by the Legislature] and that can be used for this purpose," said Reyes. "The governor is not prepared to get into all the technical details at this point. Of course, we'll want the Legislature's blessing."

However, this answer may not be enough to satisfy lawmakers, including some like Rep. Tina Sablan (I-Saipan) who said it suggests Fitial is concealing resources that he should have included in his most recent budget.

"Even if [the money] hasn't been allocated by the Legislature, it is still public funds," Sablan said in an interview. "This throws into question the whole budget the governor submitted for FY09. Apparently, he's hiding money. Apparently, he hasn't declared all resources and I think this is a complete breach of the public's trust."

Sen. Maria T. Pangelinan, (D-Saipan), chairwoman of the Senate Committee on Fiscal Affairs, echoed those statements, saying she was shocked that Fitial filed the lawsuit without the Legislature's approval. Fitial still has to answer to the Legislature about the funding source for the lawsuit, she said. Pangelinan noted concerns that the administration might have more money than it is reporting to the legislature for appropriation.

"There is a reason there are three branches of government—and that is, checks and balances. But it appears that the governor now makes all the decisions unilaterally," she said.

Rather than file suit over federalization, Rep. Diego Benavente (R-Saipan), chairman of the House Committee on Federal and Foreign Relations, said the Fitial administration should pursue negotiations with federal authorities. Although lawmakers acknowledge the governor's authority to sue the federal government and to transfer funds for the suit, he added, they believe the litigation will be costly and counterproductive.

"We stand firm in our opposition to suing the U.S. government," he said, noting the suit's price tag. "First, we simply cannot afford the $400,000 needed for this lawsuit. Second, as the governor pointed out in his State of the Commonwealth Address a few months back, there are other options for resolving this. We think negotiation is the best route."

'No merit'

While lawmakers explore the Fitial administration's source of funding for the litigation, it appears the legal arguments in the suit could face major hurdles in court.

Former Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs, David Cohen, one of the architects of the federalization bill, said in a statement that the suit's claims are at odds with the federal government's approach to immigration and labor laws historically.

"The complaint has no merit, although you never know what's going to happen in court," he said.

Moreover, while the lawsuit "tries to argue that the CNMI is being singled out with special restrictions that do not apply to any other community in the U.S," the truth "is exactly the opposite. The CNMI is receiving special benefits that no other community receives under U.S. immigration law."

Cohen also took issue with the suit's claim that the new law will force all foreign workers out of the CNMI, noting that the term of the guest worker program it creates to aid the transitional period after it is enacted can be extended.

"The new law provides the flexibility to deal with each and every concern that the governor has raised," he said. "The complaint assumes in advance that the federal government will ignore the CNMI's concerns and not use the flexibility that the new law provides, even though Congress has directed the federal agencies to be flexible in order to promote economic development in the CNMI."

The governor, he added, "is essentially asking the court for protection because he's afraid that the federal agencies will, in the future, ignore their duties under the new law and not implement it properly. Any court worth its salt would tell the governor to wait and give the feds a chance to do their jobs properly. You can't sue public officials in advance for possible future misdeeds. You have to wait to see if those misdeeds actually occur."

ALL TOGETHER NOW

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial poses for a photo with Aggreko International Sales director for Asia Steve Dunlop, Senate president Pete P. Reyes, House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios, Vice Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero, Rep. Stanley T. McGinnis Torres, and Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Antonio Muña before turning on emergency Aggreko generators in Lower Base.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Wiseman stands by his ruling, orders Fernandez to produce records

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman has denied Northern Marianas College president Carmen Fernandez's and former acting NMI Board of Regents chairperson Eloise Furey's request to reconsider the court's decision that ordered them to produce all public records requested by Rep. Stanley T. Torres.

Wiseman ruled that the Open Government Act contains no language which exempts a government office from producing information if the party seeking the information is motivated by malice or otherwise.

"Accordingly, the Court will not consider the claims or evidence of malice by Rep. Torres as material," said the judge in denying the motion for reconsideration filed by defendants Fernandez and Furey.

Wiseman said because it appears that the parties divergent account of motivation offers the only genuine factual dispute, he finds that there are no material facts in dispute, and the matter was ripe for summary judgment at the time he rendered the decision.

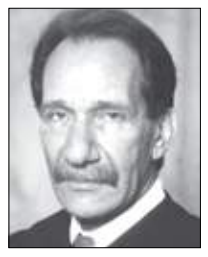
Pursuant to his first order, the judge said defendants and Torres are further directed to meet and confer in good faith to establish a feasible and reasonable manner of disclosing the public records requested by the lawmaker in a way that will not violate CNMI or federal law, or impugn any individual or entity's protected privacy interests.

He further ordered that the remaining parties to the lawsuit should appear on Sept. 25, 2008 at 1:30pm for a status conference to report on the results of their meeting.

Torres sued Fernandez, Furey, former assistant attorney general Linda Waugh, and MMI private counsel F. Matthew Smith for allegedly not producing records that he requested pursuant to the Open Government Meetings and Records Act.

Last July, Wiseman ordered Fernandez and Furey to produce all public records requested by the lawmaker.

In the same decision, the judge denied a motion to dismiss the allegations against Fernandez and Furey. He, however, granted a motion to dismiss the allegations against Waugh and Smith.


Wiseman

Wiseman stated in that order that, according to the OGA, all public records shall be available for inspection, "unless inspection of such records is in violation of any Commonwealth or federal law."

Hernandez and Furey, through counsel Smith, asked Wiseman to reconsider his decision. The defendants asserted that the granting of summary judgment in favor of Torres contains several clear errors which warrant reconsideration and reversal.

"NMC also hopes the Court will recognize the substantial and manifest injustice that has and will result if the current decision is allowed to stand," said Smith in the motion.

In their response to the motion for reconsideration, Torres urged Fernandez and Furey to leave Jack Angello out of his lawsuit.

Torres, through counsel Antonette R. Villagomez, asserted that he is pursuing this case because he believes that NMI violated the OGA by not complying with his request to inspect public records at NMC.

In denying the motion for reconsideration issued on Friday, Wiseman said the mere absence of a responsive pleading to a complaint does not bar a court from issuing summary judgment; that is, as long as there are no genuine issues as to any material fact that could be raised by an answer.

As is evident from the plain language of the OGA, Wiseman said, a dispute arising over a request for information made pursuant to the OGA, merits expedited proceedings which hardly invites a rigid application of the Commonwealth Rules of Civil Procedure.

"Accordingly, the Court issued a summary judgment requiring disclosure of the requested records consistent with the OGA's requirements, but allowing NMC to withhold certain information which is not subject to disclosure as long as such redactions are documented in a log providing the privilege or legal ground for withholding such information," he said.

Wiseman said defendants next challenged his issuance of summary judgment on the claim that it was premature in light of the "numerous issues of material fact in dispute."

It appears here, the judge said, that defendants misapprehend which facts are material and which facts are immaterial for the purposes of litigating an OGA request.

Here, Wiseman said, he has ascertained the information sought by Torres through his complaint and filings, and that Torres seeks the information from NMC, a public body subject to the OGA.

"Thus, no further facts are required for the Court to preliminarily determine that NMC must produce the requested information for inspection by Rep. Torres," he said.

FREEDOM WALK
Two-year-old Ohane Borja participates in Saipan's first "Freedom Walk" in honor of all the victims of 9-11 as well as to celebrate freedom at the Chamolinian Cultural Village in Garapan Thursday.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Guam council launches treasure hunt, poster contest

GUAM—The Tourism Education Council has launched the "Nihi Ta Sodda Y Proa" Let's Go Find the Proa! Treasure Hunt Contest, and Proa Poster Contest.

"Since this is the year of the Proa, and in celebration of the completed Proa canoe recently built by the Tourism Education Council, we have decided to create a treasure hunt and poster contest for the youth of our island," said TEC chair Jackie Marati.

Each participant must search for and create a list of proa signs, models, artwork, imprints, logos—even the actual proa—anywhere on Guam. The entry with the longest list of proas collected will be the winner.

The winners will win:

■ First place: $250 cash from Bank of Guam and $25 Agana Shopping Center gift certificate for the teacher.

■ Second place: $75 Agana Shopping Center Gift Certificate

■ Third place: $25 Agana Shopping Center Gift Certificate

The winners will be announced at an awards ceremony at the Agana Shopping Center on Nov. 1, 2008.

Students 6th – 12th grades (middle and high schools) from public, private, DODEA, and home schools may participate in the contest.

Requirements

■ The list must include the item type, location, date, and parent or teacher initial for verification.

■ Each proa must be found only on Guam.

■ Accompanying photo for each proa is highly recommended but not required (photos may be reproduced and used for other promotional purposes). .

Poster Contest

Each participating school will hold a contest. The judging panels from each school will select three entries to be submitted for public vote at the Agana Shopping Center. The top five posters will then be judged by a panel for final selection.

The winners will win:

■ First place: $250 cash from Bank of Guam and $25 Agana Shopping Center gift certificate for the teacher.

■ Second place: $75 Agana Shopping Center Gift Certificate

■ Third place: $25 Agana Shopping Center Gift Certificate

The winning design will be unveiled at an awards ceremony at the Agana Shopping Center on Nov. 1, 2008.

The winning artwork will be reproduced into an islandwide distributed poster and be used for other promotional purposes.

Children 1st-8th grades (elementary and middle schools) from public, private, DODEA, and home schools.

At least one of the following topics must be depicted in the artwork: Endurance, Strength, Beauty, Culture, and/or Adaptability.

Artwork Requirements

■ Artwork must be original.

■ Student name must not be on the front of the artwork.

■ Artwork should have a title on the front.

■ The topic, title, and description must be on the Submission Form.

■ Entries should be on white letter size (8 ½" x 11") paper.

■ Materials may include crayon, markers, paint (watercolor, tempera, acrylic).

■ Lettering and message should be large enough to reproduce well. All pencil markings should be erased.

■ Copyrighted characters (such as Mickey Mouse), product logos, and trademarked or brand names cannot be used.

Judging Criteria will include content accuracy, visual communication of topic, reproducibility, and originality.

Entry Submission

Only one entry may be submitted per child.

The Submission Form and entry must be completed received no later than 5pm, Oct. 17, 2008 (Friday), Administration Office at the Agana Shopping Center.

The Submission Form is also available at www.tourismeducationcouncil.org.

The entry and Submission Form must be enclosed in an envelope and labeled:

ATTN: Tes Reyes

RE: Chamorro Flying Proa Poster Contest

Pick-up/drop off at Agana Shopping Center Office.

Forms can be picked up at the Agana Shopping Center office M-F 8am to 4:30pm.

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Commerce and SBA to host workshop

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
stefan_sebastian@saipantribune.com
BUSINESS EDITOR

The CNMI Department of Commerce and the U.S. Small Business Administration will host a workshop aimed at helping local business people gain contracts with the federal government, a key opportunity in light of the pending military buildup in Guam.

In a statement last week, acting Commerce chief Michael Ada said representatives with SBA—an agency tasked with aiding the growth of the nation's small businesses—will be on hand Sept. 25 at Aqua Resort Club to help businesses navigate the process of registering to work with federal officials.

The workshop, Ada said, comes as part of Commerce and the Commonwealth Development Authority's commitment "to ensuring that the local business community is prepared to take part in the upcoming military buildup," adding that "preparation to do business with the federal government is critical, however it can be time-consuming and intimidating."

Guam is preparing for the arrival of U.S. military personnel now stationed on Okinawa, in Japan, who will be relocated to the island. The buildup is expected to open up major economic opportunities for businesses there and in the CNMI.

"The sooner people start the process of registering with the government, the sooner they will be eligible to bid on federal contracts," Saipan Chamber of Commerce president James Arenovski said Friday, noting that SBA also provides low interest loans to small businesses to help them grow.

The Singing V enters third week

The Singing V @ Club V, the first ever singing game show in CNMI is on its third week this coming Tuesday, Sept. 16. This series of event was inspired from the popular TV show *Singing Bee* at The Filipino Channel or TFC.

The 7th Side band performs live every Tuesday at Club V and sing parts of the song. Contestant needs to continue the required lyrics or simply say the lyrics. As their tag line says, "If You Can't Sing It, Just Say."

The Singing V is somehow similar to *Name That Tune*, but the *Singing V* requires the lyrics and not the title of the song and the song is performed live. This is a twist to the regular Barkada night at Club V where the band sings Original Filipino Music or OPM. This time, the party goers can be part of the performance as contestants. They could enjoy the party and win prizes as well.

There are 10 participants every week. The first six contestants to be eliminated automatically get $10 SaipanCell Call cards. The remaining four gets AOI dinner gift certificates from Saipan Grand Hotel. The weekly winner gets a gift certificate from SaipanCell worth $100 and $20 cash for every correct song lyrics answered. The defending champion every week gets a gift certificate from Macatangay Dermhealth Saipan Skin Care Specialist worth $85 and overnight stay for two at Saipan Grand Hotel, plus $20 for every correct song lyrics answered.

The first defending champion was Alex of Virallicci Salon during the Gay Power Episode last Sept. 2. He was out-sung by the challenger, Tina of Smartstart Day Care and Pre-school, during the Back-to-School Special last Sept. 9.

Tina will come back on Sept. 16 to compete with the new challenger. Theme for the next *Singing V @ Club V* is the hospitality business. Anyone working in a food and beverage industry can join this week's *Singing V*.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Alex of Virallicci Salon and Tina of Smartstart Day Care and Pre-school pose with their in-kind prizes after last week's *The Singing V @ Club V* event at Saipan Grand Hotel.

Forthcoming themes will be:

1. Accountant's Night
2. Nurses and Hospital/Clinic Staff Night
3. Administrative Staff Night
4. IT Night
5. Couples Night
6. Housekeeping Staff Night
7. Engineering Staff Night
8. Musicians Night

Interested participants under these themes must text their name, age, and occupation and send it to 25828 or CLUB V for Saipancell subscribers. Six contestants will be chosen from the texters and four will be from the crowd. Doors open at 8:30pm and the contest proper at 9:15pm. Regular Club V party follows at 10:15pm. The contest is being host

The more text they send the more chances of being a contestant. 10 texters will also be chose to have a free entrance at Club V. The $5 cover charge at Club V includes two complimentary San Miguel Beer. Soon the contestants of the *Singing V* will also get gas cards form Shell. For inquiries they call 235-6616 and look for Marcy. ***(PR)***

Democracy Considered
A We the People Grant Project from the NMI Council for the Humanities
Join a panel of political, business and community leaders to discuss
Federalization: An Agent of Preserving or Accelerating Demise of Local Culture?
September 16, 2008
7:00pm-8:30pm
American Memorial Park Auditorium
Free Admission
Participate by attending event, calling in, or send emails to taroleafgroup@gmail.com.
The discussion is not a debate about the merits of federalization, but rather an insightful discussion about the impact — direct or indirect—that federalization will have on local culture.
Common wisdom holds that globalization is inevitable as a result of (and convergence of) the widespread use of the internet, the ease of travel restrictions around the world, the advancement of technology, an economy that commands an international supply chain, and other tools—or agents—of this great international amalgamation.
The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands is certainly not immune to what is happening in the global arena. Residents need only to look at the meteoric rise of the price of gasoline to see how events in other parts of the world are impacting life here.
Given all these, what of the local culture? As the CNMI becomes more a part of a larger structure, how will local culture be impacted? And more specifically, given the agents of change mentioned above, what role would the recent federalization of labor and immigration play?
As the CNMI becomes more a part of the bigger U.S. family, could federalization be the saving grace of local culture? Or, could it unlock the final floodgate that would accelerate the demise of the local culture as we know it?
For more information, please email at taroleafgroup@gmail.com.
taro leaf
"From Many, One: Exploring Democracy in a Multi-Cultural Commonwealth."
"This project was supported by funding received from the National Endowment for the Humanities and awarded by the Northern Mariana Islands Council for the Humanities. Any views, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed in this project are those of the contributors and do not necessarily represent those of the National Endowment for the Humanities or the Northern Mariana Islands Council for the Humanities."

Live fire training scheduled on FDM

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, in conjunction with U.S. Naval Forces Marianas (N3) Guam and the Emergency Management Office, would like to inform the general public that the U.S. Military Unit would be conducting Live Fire Training on the island of Farallon De Mendenilla.

The schedule dates and time are as follow:

Sept. 15-18, from 7am to 2am – LIVE FIRE Training
Sept. 19-22, from 7am to 2am – LIVE FIRE Training

The general location of this activity will be on the island of Farallon De Mendenilla Training Area (R7201) on a ten (10) nautical mile radius on all quadrants.

Due to the danger imposed by this activity, Fitial is advising the general public especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators to stay away from this area during the time and dates indicated.

The cooperation and understanding of the general public is greatly appreciated.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Emergency Management Office, Operations Section at telephone numbers 322-9528 and 322-9529, VHF MARINE CHNL 16, and HF Single Side Band Radio on 5.205.0. ***(PR)***

Labor stops temporary exit notice policy

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Labor has discontinued implementing its controversial policy that requires vacationing alien workers to notify Labor about their exit.

In a public notice issued on Thursday, Labor said it has stopped the use of the temporary exit notice "in order to better serve the public."

Labor did not specify as to when they started discontinuing the exit policy.

The department, however, announced that alien workers holding CNMI entry permits that allow entry and exit for vacation, home leave, medical referral, or other purposes are no longer required to provide a temporary exit notice.

Labor began implementing the exit policy last May. But some groups of foreign workers criticized such policy, saying it was not announced to the public prior to its implementation.

Then Coalition of United Workers president Irene Tantiado stated that the policy is not difficult to comply with, but Labor should at least explain its purpose to make people understand.

Tantiado then said it is so easy to follow the regulations, but the non-announcement has serious consequences to the guest workers.

A Labor official earlier explained that a foreign national worker who fails to file notice to Labor about his or her exit before departing the CNMI may be precluded from entering the Commonwealth.

The official cited Section 5 of the Labor Rules and Regulations pursuant to Public Law 15-108 that states that "a foreign national worker who exits during the term of an approved employment contract shall file, with the (Labor) enforcement division, a notice on the standard form provided by the Department."

In its announcement, Labor said no one holding entry permit who exits CNMI for a temporary stay in another jurisdiction and wishes to return to the Commonwealth will be adversely affected by the federalization cap.

"The Labor Department has an alternative means of assuring that every person holding this kind of entry permit will be readmitted when they return to the Commonwealth," the notice said.

Thanking those who provided the temporary exit notices, Labor claimed it helped CNMI comply with federalization law quickly and effectively on a temporary basis.

"With new methods, and the Department's better automation capabilities, this temporary measure is no longer needed," Labor added.

Realty Management Services
A TanHoldings Company

Realty Management services is a full-service property management company located on the island of Saipan in the U.S. Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

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Saipan - Guam Office: 888-8888 I www.iconnectsaipan.com

Continental Micronesia flies native Guam birds home

HAGÅTÑA, Guam—Celebrating 40 years of service, Continental Micronesia proudly announces today that it has successfully transported two live Micronesian kingfishers (Halcyon cinnamomina cinnamomina) back to Guam 25 years after the native birds faced extinction in their local habitat. Continental's PetSafe program flew the birds from Philadelphia to Guam safely this week.

"We're especially proud to be the hometown carrier of Guam, and take pride in this important mission of bringing home Guam's endemic bird," said Continental Micronesia president and chief executive officer Mark A. Erwin. "Thanks to the fine care they received at zoos such as the Philadelphia Zoo and the careful transport of the birds on our PetSafe program, our Micronesian kingfishers are home safe," said Erwin.

"Given the complex routing involved in getting the birds from Philadelphia to Guam, it's been extremely helpful working with an airline that's dedicated to the cause," said Beth Bahner, Philadelphia Zoo Animal Collections manager.

"Continental Airlines is considered a leader in the field of transporting live animals with its PetSafe program," Bahner added.

A total of four birds in two shipments are planned for return to Guam. Two of these birds arrived and the other two will be shipped later this year due to limited quarantine facilities on Guam. This week's shipment consisted of two females, a four-year old and a five-year old, both hatched at the St. Louis Zoo.

The second shipment will consist of a male and a female hatched at the St. Louis and San Diego Zoos, respectively. The four highly endangered Guam Micronesian kingfishers completed the 90-day veterinary quarantine procedures required to return to the island of Guam. The kingfisher is one of 11 endemic species threatened with extinction following the accidental introduction of the brown tree snake (Boiga irregularis) during World War II.

In 1983, Continental Micronesia took part in the Guam Bird Rescue Project and carried the first shipment of kingfishers from Guam to mainland zoos in order to establish a captive population and prevent complete extinction of the species. Guam's Division of Aquatic and Wildlife Resources (DAWR) has successfully bred this species since its return to captive facilities and is anxiously awaiting additional females produced by mainland zoos through the Association of Zoos and Aquariums' Species Survival Plan (SSP). Kingfishers have been extinct in the wild since 1986 and have since only existed in captivity.

Through the Species Survival Plan, these birds were flown in from Houston and Virginia in the hopes of reproducing and creating a stable population in Guam, which is critical as it is feared they may go extinct in captivity. In 2003, Continental Micronesia helped coordinate the shipment of the three birds sent back to Guam from the National Zoo's Conservation Center in Front Royal, VA. Continental once again provided free transportation for the birds from Philadelphia to Guam via Houston. The endangered Micronesian kingfisher and Guam rail will be the focal species in the Pacific Islands-Guam exhibit of the Philadelphia Zoo's new McNeil Avian Center scheduled to open in the spring of 2009.

Celebrating 40 years of service in Guam and Micronesia, Continental Micronesia is headquartered in Guam and operates a Pacific hub from the A.B. Won Pat International Airport. A wholly owned subsidiary of Continental Airlines, Continental Micronesia employs 1,400 men and women and offers more than 246 departures each week between 22 cities throughout the Pacific Rim, the Micronesian Islands and Hawaii with a fleet of 12 Next-Generation Boeing 737 and 767 aircraft.

In addition, Continental Micronesia and its code share partner Cape Air operate 86 weekly commuter service flights between Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Continental Airlines is the world's fifth largest airline. Continental, together with Continental Express and Continental Connection, has more than 2,500 daily departures throughout the Americas, Europe and Asia, serving 131 domestic and 131 international destinations.

More than 550 additional points are served via SkyTeam alliance airlines. With more than 44,000 employees, Continental has hubs serving New York, Houston, Cleveland, and Guam, and together with Continental Express, carries approximately 69 million passengers per year.

Continental consistently earns awards and critical acclaim for both its operations and its corporate culture. For the fifth consecutive year, *FORTUNE* magazine named Continental the No. 1 World's Most Admired Airline on its 2008 List of World's Most Admired Companies. For more company information, go to continental.com. ***(PR)***

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

RFP08-GOV-097

Leak Detection and Repairs – Phase 3

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, through the CNMI Water Task Force, are soliciting sealed Proposals from qualified consulting and/or construction firms for the field survey, identification, and repair of water system deficiencies in the Lower MIHA Annex I and 2, Garapan Village and surrounding areas. The selected firm(s) shall use specialized leak detection methods in conjunction with on call construction services and information from the recently completed Chalan Kanoa/Susupe. Leak Detection and Repair Contract on the Island of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project Scope of Work will be available at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, on or after **September 15,2008.**

All questions concerning this proposal shall be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 pm, **September 25, 2008** to Pedro Sasamoto, WTF Program Manager (facsimile) number (670) 664-2279.

The proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations. Preference is available to local proposers per Public Law 15-95 as further amended by Public Law 15-118. If preference is claimed, it must be claimed at the time of proposal submission.

Four (4) copies plus one original of the sealed Proposals must be submitted to the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, MP 96950 no later than **2:00 p.m., (CNMI local time), on September 29, 2008**.

Proposals must be sealed and marked **"Leak Detection and Repairs - Phase 3, RFP08-GOV-097"**. For proposers within the CNMI, one (I) original and four (4) copies of sealed proposals must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than **2:00 p.m. (CNMI local time), on September 29, 2008**. Proposers located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of Intent to Propose. Notices of Intent to Propose must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than **2:00 p.m. (CNMI local time), on September 29, 2008**, and may be transmitted via facsimile to **(670) 664-1515** or email procuremcnt@pticom.com. For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and four (4) copies of sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S, Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **September 29, 2008** AND must be received no later than **October 8, 2008**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

The CNMI reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal if to de so shall be in the best interests of the CNMI. All Proposals shall become the exclusive property of the CNMI government

/s/ Timothy P. Villagomez
Lt. Governor, CNMI

/s/ Herman S. Sablan
Director, Procurement & Supply

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

September 15, 1999

Drop takeover plan

Opposed to a proposal to apply federal immigration laws in the Northern Marianas, leaders of the Legislature appealed to a U.S. Senate committee to drop the plan in favor of joint undertakings with Washington to reform local labor and immigration. They warned the legislation would have adverse impact on the CNMI economy and open the island to a new wave of immigrants and permanent residents who would displace the indigenous people in the future.

Asiana Air seeks CNMI support for its daily flights

Asiana Airlines vice president Young Keun Kim has asked Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio for his continued cooperation in ensuring the success of their daily Saipan-Seoul service. In a letter to the chief executive, YoungKeun said the daily service which began on Sept. 13, 1999 did not start as originally planned because of the delay in the delivery of the new aircraft. "I can assure you that I have paid utmost efforts in my position to keep the promise made during my last visit," said YoungKeun.

Sablan signs new law to benefit former land owners

A new law signed by acting Gov. Jesus R. Sablan will allow former land owners displaced after the U.S. military or the old Trust Territory government seized their properties to reclaim them based only on eligibility. Public Law 11-96 will also provide a legal basis for the Division of Public Lands as well as the Board of Public Lands to deal with long-standing problems stemming from land taking that occurred more than 20 years ago prior to the island becoming a U.S. commonwealth.

September 15, 2000

Teno summons officials to deal with CUC threat

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio summoned yesterday his finance officials to discuss ways to settle the government debt to the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation following threat of power shutoff by next month. Mike Sablan, the governor's chief finance advisor, Budget and Management Special Assistant Edward S. Tenorio, and Finance Sec. Lucy DLG Nielsen attended the "hastily-called" meeting which began at 3:00 p.m., according to Public Information Office chief Frank S. Rosario.

CDA gets new Microloan funds from SBA

Fresh cash for local business development is expected to flow from the Commonwealth Development Authority after the Guam-based United States Small Business Administration approved the agency's request for additional funds under the Microloan Program. Executive Director Marylou S. Ada yesterday disclosed that SBA has okayed CDA's request for $420,000 in supplemental funding that would facilitate the expansion of the highly-successful Microloan Program launched in the CNMI late last year.

Gov't officials ignore House hearing

For the second time, some government officials ignored yesterday an invitation to testify at a hearing called by the House Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications on a bill that will regulate boat traffic within Saipan's western lagoon.
The snub prompted House Floor Leader Oscar M. Babauta to issue a stern warning that lawmakers may invoke its power to subpoena officials to appear during legislative inquiries.

September 15, 2002

August visitor arrivals shrink

Not even an additional 100,000 tourists-as targeted by the government to lure into the CNMI this year-would be enough to place this year's visitor arrival figures on equal footing with last year's statistics. Tourist arrivals in the CNMI this fiscal year reached 382,920 as of August, about 114,681 short to equal last fiscal year's total of 497,601.

Answering a holy call

"Many are called but few are chosen." This biblical passage must have played a major role in the transformation of a happy-go-lucky man into someone he-and the people around him-didn't have the slightest idea he'll end up to be. Florentino "Nonoy" Recaido Jr. was "called" several times before he finally realized he was, indeed, chosen. Like most everyone else, Nonoy went through a normal childhood. He was allowed to play with friends after school although his folks would also expect him to sometimes help with the household chores-a typical setup in a Filipino family.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING

Second Floor Afetña Square Building, San Antonio, P.O. Box 10007, Saipan, MP 9695 • Telephone no. (670) 236-0956/0957 Facsimile no. (670) 236-0995

NOTICE OF HEARINGS PENDING DENIAL APPEALS

Notice is hereby given to the persons listed below to appear at the Hearing Office, Department of Labor, Second Floor, Afetña Square Building, San Antonio, on the date and at the time listed below. Please bring any documentation necessary to resolve the issues that led to the denial of your permit application. If you fail to appear or fail to bring required documentation, the appeal may be dismissed and an administrative order may be entered against you. Any employee who intends to request permission to transfer to a new employer must appear at the hearing to make that request; failure to appear may result in immediate denial of transfer relief.

ANY EMPLOYER WHOSE DENIAL AROSE FROM A FAILURE TO SUBMIT DOCUMENTATION, AND WHOSE DOCUMENTATION IS NOW COMPLETE, MAY REPORT TO THE DIRECTOR OF LABOR AND HAVE THE DENIAL REMOVED. ANY EMPLOYER WHOSE DENIAL IS REMOVED NEED NOT APPEAR AT THE HEARING.

ANY EMPLOYEE WHO NO LONGER WISHES TO PURSUE EMPLOYMENT WITH THE EMPLOYER LISTED BELOW, AND WISHES TO RE-REGISTER FOR TRANSFER TO ANOTHER EMPLOYER, MAY REPORT TO THE DIRECTOR OF LABOR AND HAVE THE DENIAL REMOVED. ANY EMPLOYEE WHOSE DENIAL IS REMOVED NEED NOT APPEAR AT THE HEARING AND MAY REGISTER WITH EMPLOYMENT SERVICES FOR TRANSFER.

Case No.	Employee	Employer	Hearing Date	Time
DC 08-930	Youn, Hongbog	99 Cents Supermart Inc.	Sept. 25, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-820	Panganiban, Randy M.	99 Cents Supermart Inc.	Sept. 25, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-870	Kim, Min Jung	A & K Development Co.	Sept. 25, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-925	Li, Yafan Fan	Agulto, Frank C.	Sept. 25, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-777	Naulgan, Doming P.	Aldan, Messalina Dlg.	Sept. 25, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-822A	Uddin, Jashim	Ali, Md Aykub	Sept. 25, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-942	Millare, Romill J.	Alt International Corporation	Sept. 25, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-900	Jin, Honghua	American Global Voice (Saipan) Ltd.	Sept. 25, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-899	Chen, Guangri	American Global Voice (Saipan) Ltd.	Sept. 25, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-898	Che, Shenghua	American Global Voice (Saipan) Ltd.	Sept. 25, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-897	Ai, Fanglin	American Global Voice (Saipan) Ltd.	Sept. 25, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-841A	Xu, Chunmei	Amy Int'l. Corporation	Sept. 25, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-928	Liu, Liyan	Amy Int'l. Corporation	Sept. 25, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-927	Li, Yunzhi	Amy Int'l. Corporation	Sept. 25, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-920	Quizon, Eden M.	Angel's Int'l. Corporation	Sept. 25, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-835	Santos, Angelito B.	Angel's Int'l. School of Dance Inc.	Sept. 25, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-863	Cruz, Josephine L.	Asiatico, Danilo E.	Sept. 25, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-847	Clavecillas, Erwin C.	Atalig, Felipe Q.	Sept. 25, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-802	Francisco, Veneranda T.	Atalig, Isabel T.	Sept. 25, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-769	Ostonal, Marvin F.	Auntie Mags Food Catering Serv. Inc.	Sept. 25, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-757	Piao, Meihua	B. C. Corporation	Sept. 25, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-892	Doronila, Rasty M.	Babauta, Susana C.	Sept. 25, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-811B	Calage, Erwin S.	Baka, Cheryl	Sept. 25, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-868	Montezor, Ricardo DL.	Baltazar, Luisito A.	Sept. 25, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-823	Wang, Bao Zhong	Blue Ocean Co., Ltd.	Sept. 25, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-922	Widada, Suyatna	Boyer, Garbriel F.	Sept. 25, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-923	Dimaun, Oliver S.	Boyer, Garbriel F.	Sept. 25, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-884	Chung, Seok Hwa	C & C Corporation	Sept. 25, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-783	Choi, Seong In	C.S.I. Saipan Corporation	Sept. 25, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-800	Gao, Lei	C.Y.H. Corporation	Sept. 25, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-921	Cawaling, Gina E.	Cabrera, Corazon C.	Sept. 25, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-850	Del Peralta, Jaime	Cabrera, James	Sept. 25, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-396	Demegillo, Ruther T.	Cabrera, Rosalie	Sept. 26, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-779	Hibi, Marcianita S.	Camacho, Anita A.	Sept. 26, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-886	Benitez, Hector S.	Camacho, Antonio S.	Sept. 26, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-841	Biteranta, Analee F.	Camacho, Barbara Jean C.	Sept. 26, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-895	Carino, Lilia V.	Camacho, Lourdes P.	Sept. 26, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-759	Bello, Dante V.	Camacho, Oscar B.	Sept. 26, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-915	Cai, Nansheng	Castro, Augustin T.	Sept. 26, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-842	Paga, Alex D.	Castro, Candido I.	Sept. 26, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-767	Yang, Tao	Castro, Xiao Mei Feng	Sept. 26, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-926	Francisco, Ma. Corazon D.	Celis, Felipe T.	Sept. 26, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-941	Raut, Shyam K.	Concepcion, Ignacio S.	Sept. 26, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-816	Andal, Pedro M.	Cruz, Bernardo R.	Sept. 26, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-776	Anis, Margarit Rose S.	Cruz, Justo R.	Sept. 26, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-829	De Vera, Alicia E.	Crystal Seas-CNMI, Inc.	Sept. 26, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-862	Shao, Chunjun	D & H Corporation	Sept. 26, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-791	Lu, Qinghe	De Chang Inc. Ltd.	Sept. 26, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-774	Bongato, Jr., Sonny F.	Dela Cruz, Eloy	Sept. 26, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-825	Angodage, Lenard Joseph P.	Develop Ideas Corporation	Sept. 26, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-911	Mendoza, Merry Cres G.	Diaz, Jose Deleon Guerrero	Sept. 26, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-916	Wu, Xiujuan	DLR Kaainoa Sheldon James	Sept. 26, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-819	Zhang, Hongyu	Dong Guk Corporation	Sept. 26, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-874	Ma, Delin	Double Lee Corporation	Sept. 26, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-873	Li, Boshui	Double Lee Corporation	Sept. 26, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-902	Wu, Shaoyong	EC Entertainment & Promotional, Inc.	Sept. 26, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-773	Yang, Huan	Edejer, Mr. & Mrs. Edgardo	Sept. 26, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-894	Santos, Enrico L.	EQ Construction Corporation	Sept. 26, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-888	Cabanas, Roberta T.	EQ Construction Corporation	Sept. 26, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-840	Balgoa, Arnel P.	EQ Construction Corporation	Sept. 26, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-827	Edangal, Genalyn E.	Espinosa, Grace Joy E.	Sept. 26, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-933	Jiao, Minghui	Etpison, Joe Jin	Sept. 26, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-945	Rance, Leandro G.	Fejeran, Benigno T.	Sept. 26, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-799	Castillo, Anselmo D.	Fuji Pacific Inc.	Sept. 26, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-815A	Olita, Ermelanda B.	Gacayan, Juan A.	Oct. 2, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-865	He, Jinlian	Gintian Corporation	Oct. 2, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-762	Li, Shoukui	Globe Corporation	Oct. 2, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-750	Guo, Qiongying	Great Wall Corporation	Oct. 2, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-788	Caras, Edgar A.	GTS Security Inc.	Oct. 2, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-385	Jin, Mingguang	Guo, Hong Corporation	Oct. 2, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-919	Kang, Nea Soon	Hadi Corporation	Oct. 2, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-861	Olfindo, Norman D.	Hans Corporation	Oct. 2, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-878	Zheng, Jian Qiang	He Qi Li Corporation	Oct. 2, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-889	Han, Dong Sup	HMJ Co. Ltd.	Oct. 2, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-910	Barrozo, Cesar A.	Hofschneider, Felix S.	Oct. 2, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-856	Reyles, Anita T.	Hua Xing Saipan Corporation	Oct. 2, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-810	Nicolas, Alfredo E.	Huang, Jiashen	Oct. 2, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-852	Bayas, Delia	Ignacio, Marie Antonette J.	Oct. 2, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-821	Habijuddin, Racquel M.	In Deok Lee	Oct. 2, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-848	Badilla, Sabino Jr. C.	Island Best Choice	Oct. 2, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-845	Jin, Huashu	J. Goldsky Corporation	Oct. 2, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-775	Park, Jin Woo	Jin Seo Co., Ltd.	Oct. 2, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-893	Yang, Ya Kui	Jones, Hongxia Shao	Oct. 2, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-869	Abogho, Othelia D.	Joon Corporation	Oct. 2, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-836	Mangiliman, Harold E.	JOS Corporation	Oct. 2, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-781	Aguilar, Reynaldo L.	Kinship Enterprises Inc.	Oct. 2, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-790	Buenaventura, Ana Linda B.	Kintol, Daria M.	Oct. 2, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-770	Shen, Hefan	L.C.K.G. Company Ltd.	Oct. 2, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-778	Tolin, Lorezno O.	Larinay, Emmy F.	Oct. 2, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-846	Nuqui, Florentino S.	Leche Tents	Oct. 2, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-901	Quinto, Primitivo D.	Life, Inc.	Oct. 2, 2008	1:00 pm

Case No.	Employee	Employer	Hearing Date	Time
DC 08-879	Zheng, Shaorong	Long Feng Corporation	Oct. 2, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-862	Lee, Young	LT Tour Corporation	Oct. 2, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-867	Asuncion, Danilo T.	Lucky Corporation	Oct. 2, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-896	Alegre, Romualdo A.	Marquez, Nenita V.	Oct. 2, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-830	Soriano, Carmelita M.	Marquez, Perla A.	Oct. 2, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-813	Ni, Weixin	Mei Art Inc.	Oct. 3, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-780	Jucutan, Joselyn M.	Mendiola, Elizabeth M.	Oct. 3, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-885	Tibig, Felicidad V.	Micronesia Woodcraft Ent. Inc.	Oct. 3, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-912	Mateo, Virgilio F.	Mir Mohammad Zubair Ansary	Oct. 3, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-346	Rago, Franklin A.	Mirano, Earl E. C.	Oct. 3, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-345	Corpuz, Rusell R.	Mirano, Earl E. C.	Oct. 3, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-344	Cobacha, Joselito	Mirano, Earl E. C.	Oct. 3, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-347	Chua, Leonedes C.	Mirano, Earl E. C.	Oct. 3, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-342	Bechayda, Arnulfo B.	Mirano, Earl E. C.	Oct. 3, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-931	Hernandez, Marlon D.L.	Misamis Construction Spn. Ltd.	Oct. 3, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-789	Benamira, Narciso D.	Misamis Construction Spn. Ltd.	Oct. 3, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-786	Shen, Ming Hua	Modern General Corporation	Oct. 3, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-858	Borito, Alan A.	Most Delbert	Oct. 3, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-796	Capangpangan, Ellen B.	MRS3 Corporation	Oct. 3, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-875	Du, Yicheng	New Dragon Inc.	Oct. 3, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-784	Francisco, Romeo L.	New Seoul Incorporation	Oct. 3, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-768	Li, Guishun	Nimwes, Rosanna/ Jim	Oct. 3, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-758	Miranda, Pilar D.	Noah Saipan Inc.	Oct. 3, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-876	Verunque, Remegio R.	Northpac Corporation	Oct. 3, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-877	Garcia, Reynaldo Mayson P.	Northpac Corporation	Oct. 3, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-880	Clamaan, Ihrme Epitacio B.	Orbino, Magdalena F.	Oct. 3, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-940	Manalili, Elmer G.	Ortizo, Nero S.	Oct. 3, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-761	Cui, Qingyu	Pacific Sun Lines Inc.	Oct. 3, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-806	Dela Pena, Joan D. C.	Palacios, Jenniffer F.	Oct. 3, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-906	Sun, Ronglan	Palm Springs Life Extension, Inc.	Oct. 3, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-905	Ben, Ke Lan	Palm Springs Life Extension, Inc.	Oct. 3, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-892	Conge, Joy P.	Pangelinan, Mariano	Oct. 3, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-809	Esconde, Ramonito O.	Piteg, Lucia A.	Oct. 3, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-797	Lazatin, Anita B.	Premiere Alliance Corporation	Oct. 3, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-890	Viray, Ciriaco M.	R & S Enterprises, Inc.	Oct. 3, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-826	Atienza, Renato L.	Rabbi Services, Inc.	Oct. 3, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-772	Soriano, Pedro N.	Reliable Services (Marianas) Inc.	Oct. 3, 2008	1:00 pm
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DC 08-918	Albelar, Nelson M.	Romolor, Raymon S.	Oct. 9, 2008	9:00 am
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DC 08-749	Chen, Ruitong	Rui Jin Trading Corporation	Oct. 9, 2008	9:00 am
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DC 08-755	Kim, Hyung Jin	Sae Woun Corporation	Oct. 9, 2008	9:00 am
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DC 08-815B	Mailig, Danilo R.	Salas, Joseph S.	Oct. 9, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-908	Nimura, Takashi	Samy Boat, Inc.	Oct. 9, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-857	Santos, Maripaz I.	Santos, Mark Arnold L.	Oct. 9, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-844	Zhu, Zhi Hong	Se Hoon Corporation	Oct. 9, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-843	Jiang, Kun	Se Hoon Corporation	Oct. 9, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-907	Sagucio, Oscar O.	Seishin Farm Saipan Inc.	Oct. 9, 2008	9:00 am
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DC 08-946	Feng, Quan Min	Shun Yi American Corporation	Oct. 9, 2008	1:00 pm
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DC 08-832	Zhang, Jieyong	Sinorain Corporation	Oct. 9, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-831	Hou, Na	Sinorain Corporation	Oct. 9, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-917	Jin, Zi	Sky Corporation	Oct. 9, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-751	Kim, Jae Jung	Sky Int'l. Corporation	Oct. 9, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-924	Bhuiyan, Khairul H.	Soleman	Oct. 9, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-934	An, Minghua	Soo Jee Corporation	Oct. 9, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-833	Balensosa, Rogelio C.	Stoltenberg, Leticia R.	Oct. 9, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-872	Song, Guanghao	Sunrise Corporation	Oct. 9, 2008	1:00 pm
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DC 08-811A	Echepare, Jesus V.	Tano Group Inc.	Oct. 9, 2008	1:00 pm
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DC 08-822B	Pabalan, Ruby L.	Teregeyo, Vicenta C.	Oct. 10, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-855	Vicente, Roderico C.	That Saipan Girl, LLC	Oct. 10, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-818	Lee, Haet N.	The Flair Co. Ltd.	Oct. 10, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-914	Versoza, Biovanni C.	Tri Enterprise, Inc.	Oct. 10, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-913	Reyes, Marcela T.	Tri Enterprise, Inc.	Oct. 10, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-854	Ota, Nobuyuki	Underwater Adventures, LLC	Oct. 10, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-853	Noguchi, Takahiro	Underwater Adventures, LLC	Oct. 10, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-938	Sta. Maria, Diony T.	Verde Navi Saipan, Inc.	Oct. 10, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-929	Zhou, Yun	Vergara, Jaime R.	Oct. 10, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-814	Genobaten, Ana Marie O.	Viray, Clarito C.	Oct. 10, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-760	Feng, Lei	WACL Corporation	Oct. 10, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-785	Luo, Cheng	Wang Health Cult & Sp. Corporation	Oct. 10, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-851	Zhao, Ying	Xin Jie Corporation	Oct. 10, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-839	Liu, Yan Bing	Yan Hua Corporation	Oct. 10, 2008	9:00 am
DC 08-939	Lin, Kaiqi	Yin Jia Corporation	Oct. 10, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-817	Asuncion, Marivic M.	Young Dong Enterprises, Inc.	Oct. 10, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-807	Aronce, Vicente T.	Young Dong Enterprises, Inc.	Oct. 10, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-805	Thosa, Kiriyaporn	Younis Art Studio, Inc.	Oct. 10, 2008	1:00 pm
DC 08-866	Calage, Oscar S.	Zietzke, Courtney L.	Oct. 10, 2008	1:00 pm

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER
The Associated Press Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Next: Cheaper power

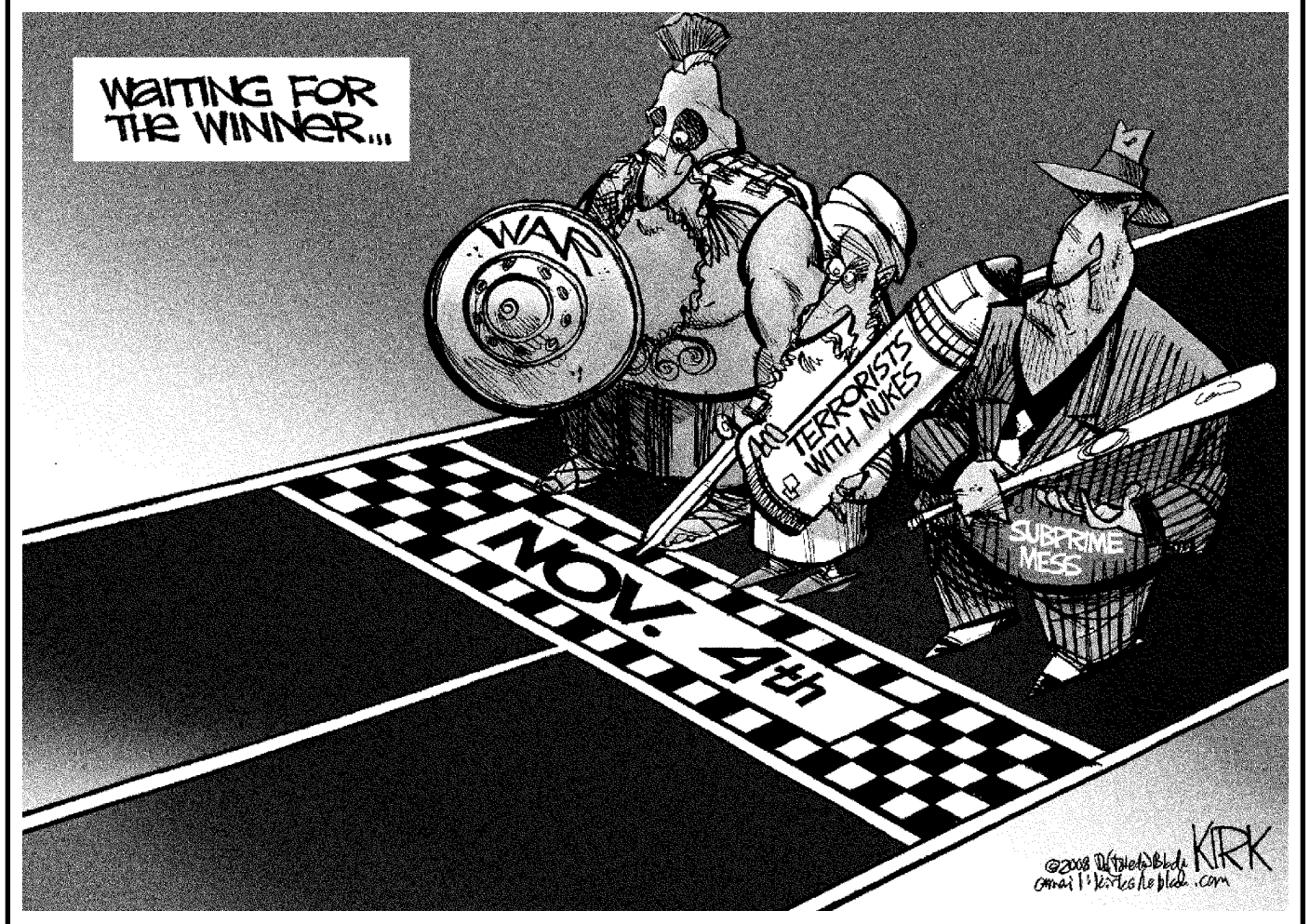
What blessed relief! With a flick of a switch, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and its 16 Aggreko engines finally put a stop to the agonizing months of load shedding that Saipan has been going through, generating the 13 megawatts needed to provide everyone with that nearly miraculous ideal of 24-7 power. This enabled businesses to run smoothly, gave everyone a good night's sleep, permitted CUC employees to have their days off, and allowed life to regain a certain measure of normalcy as could be achieved under current economic circumstances.

We must keep in mind, though, that these Aggreko generators are a temporary solution, a palliative measure intended to give CUC just enough breathing room for it to rehabilitate, repair, or replace its decrepit engines at Power Plant 1. That plant has eight power engines but only four have been working in the last few months, kept intact by prayers, faith, and baling wire. Even then, some of them would conk out now and then, leaving the entire island with just one engine running.

This gives added weight to the need to repair the engines now, particularly since we only have a year to do all that. Remember that the Aggreko deal is only for 12 months. The lease for those engines amounts to a hefty $6 million annually. Had we not had these problems with CUC, that $6 million could have been put to better use, such as buying a new engine or upgrading the island's power distribution grid to lessen system's losses. Be that as it may, we can't afford another $6 million for another year. We just don't have the money for it.

Besides the repair of the old engines, the next step is to bring down the cost of power. For businesses, the budget for electricity has more than doubled in the last two years, putting a tremendous strain on their ability to cope in the face of the continued slump in the economy. A lot of them have actually shut down because their balance sheets are already awash in red ink, rendering futile any further efforts to hang on. At the same time, families continue to flee the islands because they could no longer afford the high cost of power. This means that CUC's customer base is continually being eroded, which could only result in fewer customers and therefore lesser income for the utility agency.

Worse, it has been reported that a large percentage of the population have had their power cut off because they could no longer afford to pay for it. It therefore behooves CUC and the CNMI government to explore all feasible options—including privatization, alternative energy and federal subsidy—to make power affordable again to those with the least among us. After all, the true measure of a civilized society is in the way it treats its underprivileged. Ultimately, 24-7 power means nothing to those with no money or the means to pay for it. By ensuring that everyone is connected, we give flesh to our ideals of an equitable society where power is not treated as optional but a necessity to achieving a decent quality of life. ***(Saipan Tribune)***



A country without goals

By ANTHONY PELLEGRINO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Pellegrino is a longtime businessman in the CNMI and is the former president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.

What are the goals of the CNMI? What plans for achieving them does it have? Where can we read the plans to achieve those goals? Have we decided what course of action the CNMI must take to recover? What is our direction? Do we have one? Or is it that we don't have any and are just drifting like a straw in an ocean? I am dumbfounded to see the CNMI without plans and goals. Frankly speaking, we are like blind mice lost and drifting wildly and aimlessly. Why don't we make plans and then follow them?

All my life people preached at me "**Goals! Set Goals**! **Make plans to reach those goals! Work your plans."** Repeatedly they told me that without plans and goals, I would flounder aimlessly around like a ship without a rudder. So I made goals and they have led me to various destinations successfully and, at times, not so successfully. But I always had a sense of direction. I learned early that without plans to achieve goals I would never achieve anything. As Earl Nightingale always said: "Success is the progressive realization of a worthy goal!"

Today we are in a serious situation and yet we lack concrete plans with clearly defined goals to direct us. We cannot even agree on a simple matter as a budget. Agencies do not know how many people they have. They do not know how much money they are spending and the results of that spending. We have no plans for correcting the CUC. We keep slapping on bandages and call that a goal. We have no plans on how to cooperate with Federalization which will cause a major change in our lives. Various government agencies have no plans or goals. The administration has no goals or plans. What has happened to us? Why don't we have plans and goals?

Today we are in a serious situation and yet we lack concrete plans with clearly defined goals to direct us. We cannot even agree on a simple matter as a budget. Agencies do not know how many people they have. They do not know how much money they are spending and the results of that spending.

Instead of plans and goals, we are fed scare tactics about how federalization is going to destroy us. We will lose our tourists. Local government workers will be fired and replaced with statesiders. But where are the plans to cope with those problems? We hear that the new generators will fix our utility nightmare for the coming year and after that we will have a new set of operators who will miraculously correct over 25 years of misuse of power generation and distribution. But where is the plan? I could go on and on. But I am beginning to sound bitter.

How long are going to continue this stupidity? When will be wake up and see that the solutions are right before us? All we need to do is to sit down and start planning and setting goals. Making plans is the first step to achieving goals. We have the intelligence but do we have the desire to make them? Once plans are made we must carry them out.

In the past we have made plans but in a few months they were either forgotten or discarded by a new administration without replacing or modifying them. For example, we receive huge sums of CIP money yearly from the United States. Where are the plans for utilizing that money? We could have used that to resolve the power crisis. After so many years we are still suffering from insufficient non-drinking water to our homes. Where are the plans for solving this eternal problem?

As a result previous attempts to carry out plans have been wasted including the money spent on them. What a sad commentary on our ability to control our destiny. And some of us still wonder why the U.S. is stepping in to help us by taking over some of our responsibilities. Instead of making plans and goals to achieve a harmonious and profitable relationship, we become confrontational like children rebelling against their parents' guidance. We have really botched up running our government.

If we want to know where we will be a few years down the road, we need roadmaps. We must know who will lead us in the correct direction. We must know why we are going in that direction. We must know when we will arrive at the goal. We must know what we must do to succeed. And lastly how are we going to achieve our goals. But one more ingredient is needed if our plans are to succeed. We must have constant monitoring which allows for adjustment and correction as we advance towards our goals. Monitoring forces the plans to go

See A COUNTRY on Next Page

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A September Swan song

"Try to remember the kind of September, when life was slow and oh, so mellow…"

In discussions around the table when I was still attending meetings of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce at the turn of the century/millennium, was of the demise of the garment industry and who would have the privilege to be the last to turn the lights off. The assumption then, as evidently it still is in some quarters, or more accurately, the foisted threat then was that the island economy would slide into the Marianas Trench if the garment industry were not protected and sustained. Measures proposed to protect and sustain the industry included the continuing exemptions of the islands from provisions of the Minimum Wage Law, the non-application of some of the nation's laws on immigration, and the full control and management of the administration of labor and immigration laws to the local government. All three has since become moot with the third measure, the local administration of labor and immigration laws, soon to be under Federal guidance by June of next year.

I had previously characterized the island's economy as a three-legged stool, with tourism, government subsidies, and the garment industry as the legs. With the fast ebbing garment industry finally hitting the dust at dusk, we now have an unstable two-legged stool. With the local government's machismo-driven animosity towards Uncle Sam, we may write off the second remaining leg as potential resource underutilized with benign negligence. Bruce Bateman sourly says as much when he pictures a one-legged stool of tourism wearily hopping about and around one of the world's divers' paradises.

We will say no more about the high crimes committed in the name of the garment industry. We have already commented extensively on and about the depraved exploitation of contract workers both inside and outside the legitimate perimeters of the industry, and both by the indigenes and the victims co-nationals, and the consequent corruption that emerged from the bureaucracies that regulated their commerce as workers and residents.

I remain in good terms with many of the professional staff of the CNMI Labor and Immigration offices but I can recite from professional and personal incidences a litany of the department's "deficiencies" (one of their favorite terms) as fast as I could recite my Hail Mary's. In spite of brave efforts so far, the administrative stable in San Antonio awaits some massive tidying up.

Uncle Ben's stance towards Uncle Sam is baffling. With the Willens-Siemer duo as volunteer advisers to his administration, one would think that actions like threatening to sue the federal government would be an act of desperation devoid of reason and rhyme. In their excellent account of the United States Policy in Micronesia from 1961-72, the couple wrote of the late Palauan lawmaker Lazarus Salii and his rhetoric in the Congress of Micronesia: "The anti-United States rhetoric in the Congress of Micronesia debate about the U.S. proposal for a commonwealth alarmed Marianas voters. Accustomed to politically sophisticated calculations, Marianas residents readily understood that it was one thing to criticize the Trust Territory administration but quite another to ridicule the United States itself."

Much is being claimed these days about provisions in the Covenant and how that might be the basis of defining self-determination as a Commonwealth. "National Security and Self-Determination" was how Howard Willens and Deanne Siemers titled their account. While it clearly shows how the leaders gathered in the Congress of Micronesia viewed self-determination more as an act of autonomy from political union with Uncle Sam, the Northern Marianas took a different turn. The NMI expressed self-determination through a declaration of interdependence with Uncle Sam, toward political union rather than away from it, as the rest of Micronesia ultimately decided to do.

Tina Sablan, Ed Probst, Pete A., et al, in their attempt to rally NMI residents to clamor for their rightful claim to assets under Uncle Sam's purview are not acts of mendicancy sneered at from some quarters but legitimate acts of those who properly comprehend how sovereign power and citizens' responsibility applies in the Commonwealth.

Wednesday's prayer rally, which may properly begin with gratitude for the other day's uninterrupted power supply calls the attention of the local and federal authorities, most particularly the application of the Stafford Act in enabling the U.S. President to extend emergency assistance to a political entity within its wings that has already officially declared a state of emergency. It also calls our leaders to realize that false pride and misguided testicular fortitude is not the responsible reaction to the current situation.

To be sure, the rally is also a reminder to the Horiguchi building residents that they can feel at home, and that we expect their offices to represent us well within the nation's federation of States, not as an inconvenient extension, but as a full member of the family. For instance, in many Internet vendors' address systems, the State initial for the CNMI is not listed while those of the rest of the U.S. territories are. Even our USPS treats mail to and from U.S. entities as foreign mail. We are listed in many address systems as separate from the United States, and categorized like we were an independent country. I do not think that the political sophistication alleged by Willens-Siemer of the Micronesians of the decade of the '60s extended in the consciousness of political autonomy now being claimed by John Del Rosario, Greg, Cruz, Jr., et al, or the desire to be treated as a foreign country as being done by many institutions of trade and commerce.

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section.*

More importantly, this Wednesday's rally should be a reminder to all U.S. citizens that there is something rotten in the lagoon when legitimate residents who have lived with us for a decade or more, are not afforded the opportunity to become permanent residents. That is simply just un-American! Nor should we be bashful in banishing the reality as well as the image of being simply a third world country with a U.S. zip code.

Professionally, September still finds my relationship to my employer in limbo. I have been paid for two years now without benefit of contract, and although there is something liberating about the thought of being able to walk out of any commitment without the constraints of legally binding instruments, this do not bode well in establishing a workable partnership, nor does it claim my loyalty and covenant to a shared enterprise.

Personally, my September song may be a bit more discordant than Robert Goulet's booming baritone trying to remember. But it is the month of my mother's birthday and that of my *ta lao po* (primal spouse), and those are celebrations. This month also ends my self-imposed yearlong period of mourning over my *xiao lao po* (beloved) who left a year ago. But as one of my colleagues in school said recently about an inadvertent sharing of personals by another colleague: "that's more than what we really want to know."

Swan song has become an idiom in common English usage as referring to a final theatrical or dramatic appearance, or any final work or accomplishment. It evolved from the belief in ancient mythology that the swan emits a melodious sound before it dies. While I am not getting ready to expire yet, there is definitely something dramatic and theatrical about our lives this September. Some of it will be at the Fisherman's wharf this Wednesday. So, in this September day, let's prayerfully party and sing out our September songs!

Letter to the Editor

Appointment and resignation from CPA

I wish to clarify the situation surrounding my appointment and subsequent resignation as the Acting Executive Director for the Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA).

When I responded to the governor's request to fill a critically needed position at the CPA, I felt that I could actually become part of the solution for some of the grave challenges facing the CNMI, and that I could contribute to the public good by sharing the experience I have gained from running my own business for nearly 23 years.

The CNMI is my home, and many times I have written letters to the editor on concerns that I believed were shared by the public and that required the attention of our government.

I was aware of the requirements of full disclosure regarding anything that could be considered a conflict of interest. I immediately during my first meeting brought to the governor and the legal counsel's attention the projects that EFC Engineers & Architects Corp. worked on for the port authority, and that all except for one in the final closing stages.

That final project is at the Tinian International Airport, and under the terms of the contract is to be completed by Sept. 28, 2008.

The governor announced on Aug. 22 that he appointed me to be Acting Executive Director of CPA effective Aug. 21. I unfortunately assumed that since the appointment was made that all matters had been thoroughly investigated and settled including the questions that I had raised prior to the appointment. Clearly I was mistaken.

Despite the appointment, I have not signed any contract with the Commonwealth Ports Authority. I have also not accepted any compensation, nor do I intend to. I do not know where the $170,000 salary quoted in the media came from. My early meetings with the governor and the CPA Board of Directors did not include discussions of me potentially receiving a salary that would exceed the cap established by law for agency and department heads. These discussions took place in the context of my background as a licensed professional engineer, the fact that existing law allows for over the cap salaries for professional engineers, and the possibility that part of my salary might be federally funded if I were to provide engineering services to CPA that would be in addition to the responsibilities I would be assuming as Executive Director. There was, however, never any agreement between the CPA Board of Directors and myself in terms of compensation.

My interest in the position of Executive Director for CPA was based on my sincere desire to help CPA and the community. It was never my intention to seek any personal advantages from the public office to which I had been appointed. I deeply regret the controversy that my appointment has created for CPA, the community, my business, and my family.

I have, as of Monday, Sept. 8, 2008, submitted my resignation to the Board of the Commonwealth Ports Authority and the governor, effective immediately.

Efrain F. Camacho
Saipan

A COUNTRY

From Page 10

ahead and drive towards the goal.

Imagine a businessman going to the bank requesting a loan for a new venture or to borrow more money for his existing business. The first question the bank or any lender will ask is "May I see your business plan?" If he doesn't have a strong one, guess what?

That's right no loan. And the reason for the refusal is that the lender sees little chance for success without a plan and goal. How can the CNMI with about 70,000 populations, plus or minus, spending millions of dollars yearly and trying to promote a wholesome and prosperous life for its citizens, succeed without any plans and goals? It boggles my mind. Is it any wonder we are lost?

Ask any government department head to see his plans and goals for his agency. Ask some Legislators for their plans and goals for being in office. Ask the Administration where its plans and goals are for the Commonwealth. Let me know the replies you receive. I would really like to see them also.

I am reminded of the planning that went into rebuilding Japan after the Second World War. I lived there from 1958 until 1974 and participated in some of their development plans. I was engaged in helping several companies bring American technology to Japan. I worked with several large corporations and was part of their planning and goal setting departments. The Japanese had no natural resources but lots of determination with plans and goals. As a result look at how prosperous Japan is now.

I am reminded of Singapore who in 1959 was one of the poorest nations in the world after England cut ties with it. But with strong plans and goals coupled with determination from its leaders and people, it now stands among the leading wealthiest nations in the world, yet has a small land area and a small population. Korea has also done a super job in becoming strong and prosperous even after two wars. If those nations and other nations did it and are still doing it today, why can't we?

No individual or nation will ever succeed without a plan. If we stick to the plan—use it correctly and with determination, it will take us to a successful goal. Let's do it now before we sink further! A successful life must be a planned one with definite goals.

A successful nation must also have plans and goals. Remember: "Success is the progressive realization of a worthy goal!"

Do we have an alternative?

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Mostly sunny with isolated showers. Light and variable winds.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Light and variable winds.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

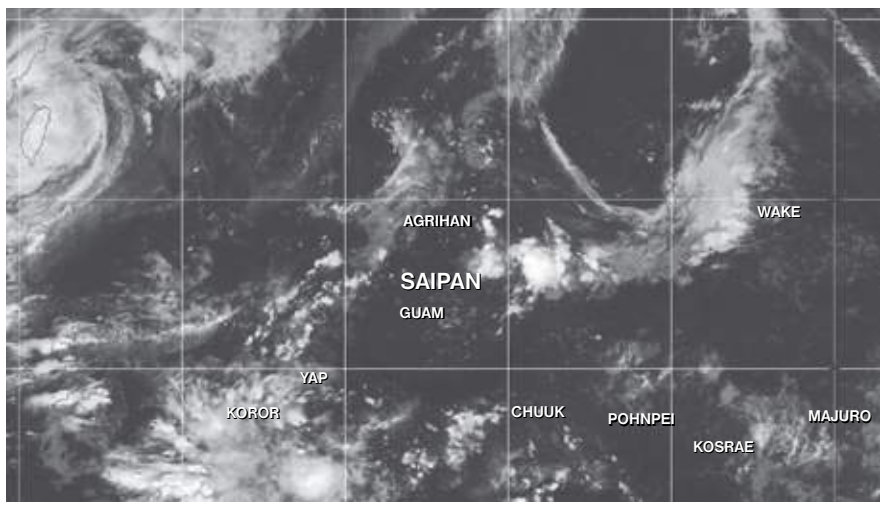
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Mostly Cloudy	▲85	▼76
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼78
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	▲87	▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼79
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼71
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼77
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼74

Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Sunny	▲62	▼53
Beijing	Sunny	▲93	▼64
Hong Kong	Cloudy	▲94	▼79
Honolulu	Showers	▲85	▼76
London	Cloudy	▲63	▼50
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲88	▼62
Manila	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼77
Melbourne	Windy	▲57	▼38
Miami	Thundershowers	▲91	▼78
New York	Mostly Cloudy	▲83	▼61
Osaka	Thunderstorms	▲77	▼71
Paris	Mostly Sunny	▲63	▼49
Pusan	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼68
Rome	Showers	▲72	▼57
Salem	Sunny	▲89	▼49
San Francisco	Sunny	▲75	▼55
Seoul	Partly Sunny	▲87	▼62
Tokyo	Rain	▲74	▼68
Washington, DC	Cloudy	▲87	▼62

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2008
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Converging low-level winds are producing scattered showers well north of Koror within 35 miles of a line from 14N133E to 16N136E. An upper-level trough extends north-northeastward from 12N139E through an upper low centered west of Agrihan at 19N139E to beyond 25N at 142E. Scattered showers are seen near the trough axis within 100 miles along 20N from 140E to 144E. A low-level trough runs southeastward from 10N135E through a circulation centered southeast of Koror near 5N139E to end at EQ140E aided by favorable upper-level dynamics. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are occurring over Koror but south of Yap or south of a line from 8N131E to 8N139E to 5N145E. A surface trough reaches north-northeastward from 10N148E through a weak circulation centered east of Agrihan near 18N150E to 23N151E. Scattered showers associated with the circulation are seen northeast of Saipan within 40 miles of a line from 19N149E to 17N150E to 17N152E. Upper-level divergence is enhancing scattered showers west of Wake Island within 160 miles of a line from 17N158E to 21N164E. Trade-wind convergence is creating scattered showers south of Chuuk within 60 miles of 4N152E and north of Pohnpei within 80 miles of 9N158E. Similar conditions also exist east of Kosrae within 70 miles of a line from 5N165E to 4N171E and northeast of Majuro within 60 miles of a line from 10N175E to 12N180.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
1:31AM Today	Low Tide:	0.7 Feet
7:04AM Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
1:42PM Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
7:54PM Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:06AM	6:19 PM
Tuesday	6:06AM	6:18 PM
Wednesday	6:06AM	6:17 PM
Thursday	6:06AM	6:16 PM
Friday	6:06AM	6:16 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	6:06PM	5:38AM
Tuesday	6:46PM	6:31AM
Wednesday	7:27PM	7:26AM
Thursday	8:12PM	8:23AM
Friday	9:02PM	9:24AM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2008

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Rota

CO 9313	8:30am	9:05am	3,4,7

Saipan-Guam

CO9317	4:00am	4:50am	Daily
CO9597	8:30am	9:20am	1,2,5,6
CO9313	8:30am	10:00am	3,4,7 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	Daily
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

Saipan-Narita

NW 099	5:00am	7:30am	Daily
NW 078	8:55am	2:00pm	Daily
NW 075	4:55pm	7:25pm	Daily

Saipan-Osaka

NW 083	4:20pm	6:55pm	Daily

Saipan-Nagoya

NW 078	8:55am	11:35am	Daily

Saipan-Seoul

OZ 604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ 604	2:50am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2,4,6,7

Saipan-Busan

OZ 608	3:50am	7:20am	1,5

Guam-Manila

CO 891	6:00am	10:30am	3 via Yap and Koror
CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	5 via Koror
CO 933	7:00pm	8:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:45am	1,2,4,6,7

Saipan-Guanzhou

CZ 3008	5:00am	8:00am	2,6

Guam-Rota

CO 9598	10:15am	10:45am	1,2,6

ARRIVALS

Rota-Saipan

CO 9598	11:10am	11:45am	1,2,6

Guam-Saipan

CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	Daily
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9598	10:15am	11:45am	1,2,6 via Rota
CO9600	10:45am	11:35am	3,4,5,7
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

Narita-Saipan

NW 076	10:15am	2:50pm	Daily
NW 077	6:25pm	1:30am+1	Daily
NW 100	8:45pm	1:20am+1	Daily

Osaka-Saipan

NW 084	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily

Nagoya-Saipan

NW 077	9:00pm	1:30am+1	Daily

Seoul-Saipan

OZ 605	9:00am	2:30pm	2,4,6,7
OZ 603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6

Busan-Saipan

OZ 607	9:30pm	2:50am+1	4,7

Manila-Guam

CO 892	11:45am	8:25pm+1	3 via Koror and Yap
CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	5 via Koror
CO 934	10:55pm	4:30am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:20pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7

Guanzhou-Saipan

CZ 3007	8:00pm	4:00am+1	1,5

Rota-Guam

CO 9313	9:30am	10:00am	3,4,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
YOUTH CONGRESS

CNMI YOUTH CONGRESS

Election Day: TODAY September 15, 2008

For more information, please contact the CNMI Youth Congress Office at 664-8845

POLLING SITES

Precinct Election at Public Schools

Saipan Southern High School Cafeteria (Precinct 1)
Marianas High School Cafeteria (P1; P2; P3; & P4)
Kagman High School Cafeteria (P1 and P4)
Tinian Jr./Sr. High School (Precinct 5)
Rota High School (Precinct 6)

Northern Marianas College's Student Center (P1; P2; P3; & P4)	8:00am – 6:00pm
Multi Purpose Center (P1; P2; P3; & P4)	8:00am – 6:00pm

Precinct 1:

Koblerville Youth Learning Center (2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.)
Kagman Community Center (2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.)

Precinct 2:

House of Manhoben (2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.)

Precinct 3:

Gualo Rai Learning Center (2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.)

Precinct 4:

Tanapag Youth Center (2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.)
Kagman Community Center (2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.)

Business

Economic damage from Ike may be less than feared

By DAVID KOENIG and ELLEN SIMON
AP BUSINESS WRITERS

A small change in Hurricane Ike's course just before it crashed into the Texas coast Saturday may have spared the state and the nation from significantly worse economic damage.

The center of the storm appeared to miss the vital concentration of oil and petrochemical refineries in the Houston area, and the surge of water rolling into the nation's second-largest port was also weaker than predicted.

"If the eye of that storm had been as much as 20 miles east, we would have a lot more havoc and damage than we did," said Chris Johnson, a senior vice president at commercial property insurer FM Global.

Much of the region's industrial recovery will depend on how quickly power companies can restore electricity; that, in turn, will depend on how quickly the utilities can get employees back to work.

Gas prices leaped overnight throughout the East Coast—to nearly $5 a gallon in some place—because much of its fuel comes via pipeline from the Gulf Coast, where wholesale prices had been climbing in recent days. Motorists are likely to pay more for weeks, or until the power can be restored to big refineries in Louisiana and Texas.

Moreover, workers whose skills are needed to kick-start the local economy are busy dealing with personal hardships.

"I received a call from one of my employees, who was evacuated to San Antonio. He was just informed that his house was totally destroyed," said Bill Reid, the CEO of Ohmstede, which builds and repairs refineries.

Reid, who lives in Kemah, Texas, about 35 miles south of Houston, said his town was without power and water, and still had 15 feet of flooding.

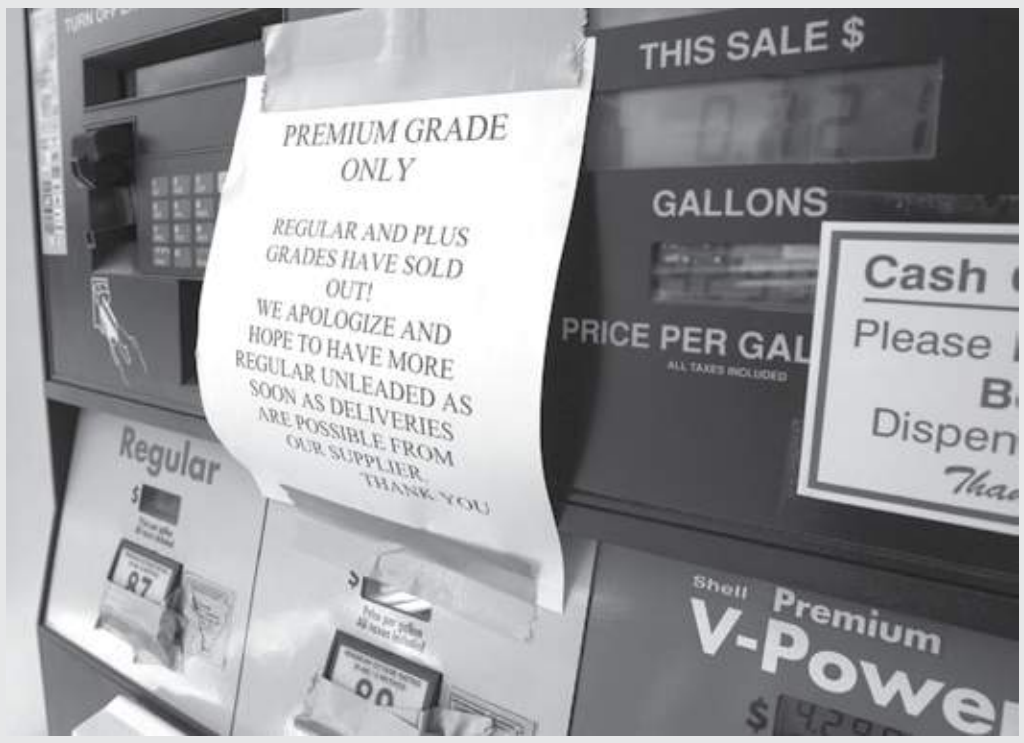
The region's tourism industry also took a blow, as Ike pummeled the popular barrier island town of Galveston. A nightclub—perched on a pier over Galveston Bay—that once featured Frank Sinatra and Bob Hope was reduced to sticks.

On the mainland, the storm's impact on businesses looked much milder than its toll on individuals. A huge number of homes were destroyed, roads were impassable and there was no electricity or water service for thousands as of Saturday evening. It may take days to determine how many people were killed by Ike.

The port of Houston, the nation's second-largest, was without power Saturday but expects to reopen Monday morning if power is restored and the Coast Guard finds no obstacles in the shipping lanes. Some empty cargo containers were blown about, but not too far.

"All the terminals did very well and we had only very minor damage, like fencing being blown down," said port spokeswoman Argentina James.

Far from Ike's path, an aftershock is felt: $5 gas


PREMIUM GRADE ONLY
REGULAR AND PLUS GRADES HAVE SOLD OUT!
WE APOLOGIZE AND HOPE TO HAVE MORE REGULAR UNLEADED AS SOON AS DELIVERIES ARE POSSIBLE FROM OUR SUPPLIER.
THANK YOU
THIS SALE $
GALLONS
PRICE PER GAL
Regular
Shell Premium V-Power

AP

A sign taped to a Little Rock, Ark., gas station states there is no more regular or mid-grade gasoline due to curtailed deliveries Friday, Sept. 12, 2008.

HOUSTON (AP)—From Florida to Tennessee, and all the way up to Connecticut, people far from Hurricane Ike's destruction nonetheless felt one of its tell-tale aftershocks: gasoline prices that surged overnight—to nearly $5 a gallon in some places.

Fears of supply shortages, and actual fuel-production disruptions, resulting from Ike's lashing of vital energy infrastructure led to pump price disparities of as much as $1 a gallon in some states, and even on some blocks.

Late Saturday the U.S. Minerals Management Service said there were two confirmed reports of drilling rigs adrift in the central Gulf of Mexico.

Compounding the jitters and higher costs for gasoline retailers was the fact that some big refineries along the Gulf Coast had been shut for nearly two weeks following Hurricane Gustav. Power outages caused by Ike threatened to keep millions of gallons of gasoline output idled for at least several days.

The price of regular gasoline soared as high as $4.99 a gallon in Knoxville, Tenn. on Saturday, up from $3.66 a day earlier.

In Florida, the attorney general's office reported prices as high as $5.50 a gallon in Tallahassee and said it had received 186 gouging complaints.

Gov. Charles Crist said on Friday that $5 a gallon "can only be described as unconscionable" and added: "Raising rates to exorbitant levels like this only causes unnecessary panic and fear. This type of behavior will not be tolerated."

In Connecticut, AAA said average prices jumped 10 cents overnight and Attorney General Richard Blumenthal said his office had received complaints of stations charging more than they advertised, raising prices more than twice in a single day and other problems.

Govt, Wall Street race to try to save Lehman

NEW YORK (AP)—The field of possible buyers for Lehman Brothers narrowed Saturday, but the parties involved in the discussions over the wounded investment bank's future were at loggerheads over how to finance the rescue.

An investment banking official said Bank of America Corp. and Britain's Barclays Plc have emerged as the front runners for Lehman Brothers after a possible cash injection from its rival Wall Street banks and brokerages.

Top officials from the Federal Reserve and the Treasury Department and executives from several Wall Street banks met at the New York Fed's downtown Manhattan headquarters Saturday for the second day in a row try to hash out a deal to rescue Lehman Brothers.

The financial world was watching. Failure could prompt skittish investors to unload shares of financial companies, a contagion that might affect stock markets at home and abroad when they reopen Monday.

Discussions are expected to continue Sunday, said Andrew Williams, a spokesman for the New York Fed.

The investment banking official, who asked not to be named because the talks were ongoing, said the investment houses were balking at paying to polish up Lehman's balance sheet so Bank of America or Barclays could buy a financially clean firm.

He said the investment banks were angling for the government to provide some money, as it did when it helped JPMorgan Chase & Co. buy Bear Stearns in March, because they would get little to nothing in return for their help.

The government has drawn a line in the sand over using taxpayer money to help rescue Lehman Brothers, however.

The official said the talks were tense and neither side appeared willing to back down.

Besides selling the company whole or piecemeal, Lehman could be liquidated, perhaps with financial firms agreeing to still do business with the company as it wound down.

Or, a financial company or companies could buy Lehman's "good" assets. Its shunned or devalued real-estate assets could be placed in a "bad bank" financed by other banks.

Saturday's participants included Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson, Timothy Geithner, president of the New York Fed, and Securities and Exchange Commission Chairman Christopher Cox.

Citigroup Inc.'s Vikram Pandit, JPMorgan Chase & Co.'s Jamie Dimon, Morgan Stanley's John Mack, Goldman Sachs Group Inc.'s Lloyd Blankfein, and Merrill Lynch & Co.'s John Thain were among the chief executives at the meeting.

Representatives for Lehman Brothers were not present during the discussions.

They gathered on the heels of an emergency session convened Friday night by Geithner—the Fed's point person on financial crises.

Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke is actively engaged in the deliberations but wasn't in attendance.

Geithner convened the meeting Friday evening and told bankers gathered at the New York Fed to come up with a solution or risk being the next to go under, investment banking officials with direct knowledge of the talks said. They spoke on condition of anonymity because the talks were ongoing.

A spokesman for Lehman declined to comment about the meeting.

AP

Lehman Brothers Headquarters in New York City is seen Saturday, Sept. 13, 2008. Late Friday, the Federal Reserve Bank of New York held an emergency meeting with top Washington policymakers and major financial institutions to discuss Lehman's future.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

GM support grows to $10.6B in new plan for Delphi

NEW YORK (AP)—Delphi Corp. and its former parent General Motors Corp. said Friday they have reached a new deal on the automaker's role in Delphi's bankruptcy that puts the supplier on track to exit Chapter 11 by the end of the year. The agreement boosts GM's financial support of Delphi to $10.6 billion, up from $6 billion in an earlier plan. That includes the assumption of $3.4 billion in pension obligations for hourly workers, instead of the $1.5 billion predicted earlier. Delphi also plans to freeze its pension plans for salaried and hourly workers once it has obtained union permission to do so. An earlier agreement with unions allowed Delphi to freeze the pensions but not until the company emerged from bankruptcy.

Walgreen offers $2.8B to buy Longs Drug Stores

NEW YORK (AP)—Walgreen Co. made an offer late Friday to buy Longs Drug Stores Corp. for $2.8 billion, hoping to unseat a rival offer from CVS Caremark Corp. that Longs had already accepted. Deerfield, Ill.-based Walgreen said it would pay $75 a share in cash to buy Walnut Creek, Calif.-based Longs, besting CVS's price of $71.50 per share, also in cash, which was equivalent to about $2.7 billion. Either deal would also include the assumption of about $200 million in debt. Longs shares rose 4 percent to $74.50 in after-hours trading. Walgreen CEO Jeffrey Rein said in a letter to Longs' board of directors that the company would prefer to negotiate with Longs directly but also was prepared to take the offer directly to the company's shareholders.

China says company knew of tainted milk for weeks

BEIJING (AP)—China's health minister blamed a dairy Saturday for the delay in warning the public about tainted milk powder linked to kidney stones in infants and at least one death, as authorities increased the number of known sick babies to 432. The incident has been an embarrassing failure for China's product safety system, which was overhauled in an attempt to restore consumer confidence after a string of recalls and warnings around the world over tainted toothpaste, faulty tires and other Chinese-made goods. Officials complained they were not alerted to the milk problem until Monday even though the product's maker, Sanlu Group Co., had received complaints as early as March and its tests found a banned chemical in the milk powder in August. The company ordered a recall Thursday. "The Sanlu Group should shoulder major responsibility for this," Health Minister Gao Qiang said at a news conference.

Nation

By air, boat and truck, search on for Ike victims

HOUSTON (AP)—Rescuers in boats, helicopters and high-water trucks fanned out along the flood-stricken Texas coast Saturday in a monumental effort to reach tens of thousands of people who stubbornly ignored warnings and tried to ride out Hurricane Ike.

The storm roared ashore hours before daybreak with 110 mph winds and towering waves, smashing houses, flooding thousands of homes, blowing out windows in Houston's skyscrapers, and cutting off power to more than 3 million people, perhaps for weeks, though some had been restored by nightfall.

■■■

BRIDGE CITY, Texas (AP)—Officials in one southeast Texas county say they are trying to rescue families trapped by devastating floods from Hurricane Ike.

Orange County Judge Carl Thibodeaux says rescue teams in dump trucks are plowing through deep water Saturday in a risky effort to help families stranded on roofs and in attics. Thibodeaux says the effort is a gamble but authorities have to do something.

He says the flooding from Ike will be worse than Hurricane Rita, which ravaged the county near the Louisiana border in 2005. Floodwaters are as high as 8 feet in some areas.

Thibodeaux expects it will be weeks before power is restored to parts of the county.

■■■

By nightfall, it appeared that Ike was not the single calamitous stroke that forecasters had feared. But the full extent of the damage—or even a rough sense of how many people may have perished—was still unclear, in part because many roads were impassable.

Some authorities feared that this could instead become a slow-motion disaster, with thousands of victims trapped in their homes, waiting for days to be rescued.

"We will be doing this probably for the next week or more. We hope it doesn't turn into a recovery," said Sheriff's Sgt. Dennis Marlow in Orange County, where 600 to 700 people had to be rescued from flooded homes. He said hundreds were probably still stranded.

By some estimates, more than 140,000 of the 1 million or so people who had been ordered to evacuate the coast as Ike drew near may have tried to tough it out. Many of them evidently realized the mistake too late, and pleaded with authorities in vain to save them overnight.

AP

Damage after the passing of Hurricane Ike is seen Saturday, Sept. 13, 2008, in Crystal Beach, Texas.The storm roared ashore hours before daybreak with 110 mph winds and towering waves, smashing houses, flooding thousands of homes, blowing out windows in Houston's skyscrapers, and cutting off power to more than 3 million people, perhaps for weeks.

Obama camp suggests lies over Palin visit to Iraq

WASHINGTON (AP)—The question of whether Sarah Palin has ever been to Iraq pushed Obama aides Saturday to accuse the McCain campaign of outright lies, distortions and distractions to the American people.

Since Republican presidential nominee John McCain tapped the Alaska governor to be his running mate on Aug. 29, questions about her experience have been fueled by her relatively brief tenure in office, as well as a dearth of foreign travel.

Palin made a well-documented trip to Kuwait and Germany last year to visit U.S. troops, and over time, the governor and her staff have revealed she also visited Canada and Mexico. Meanwhile, her aides clarified that a purported visit to Ireland was little more than a refueling stop during her trip to the Middle East.

On Saturday, a Palin aide told The Associated Press the governor also traveled one-quarter mile into Iraq during her July 2007 trip to participate in a re-enlistment ceremony for a member of the Alaska National Guard. Palin did not mention the excursion when asked about her foreign travels last week during a two-part ABC News interview because the bulk of her trip was elsewhere, said spokeswoman Tracey Schmitt.

That answer appears to contradict one provided to The Boston Globe, which reported Saturday that McCain-Palin aides had twice revised their description of Palin's visit to Iraq.

The newspaper said unnamed aides initially explained that Palin had visited a "military outpost" inside Iraq.

Calif. rail agency: Engineer's error caused wreck

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A commuter train engineer who ran a stop signal was blamed Saturday for the nation's deadliest rail disaster in 15 years, a wreck that killed 25 people and left such a mass of smoldering, twisted metal that it took nearly a day to recover all the bodies.

A preliminary investigation found that "it was a Metrolink engineer that failed to stop at a red signal and that was the probable cause" of Friday's collision with a freight train in Los Angeles' San Fernando Valley, Metrolink spokeswoman Denise Tyrrell said.

"When two trains are in the same place at the same time somebody's made a terrible mistake," said Tyrrell, who was shaking and near tears as she spoke with reporters.

The engineer was among the dead, said National Transportation Safety Board member Kitty Higgins. His name had not been released late Saturday.

Many of the 25 people killed had been in the front car of the Metrolink train, which was crushed like an accordion in the wreck.

A total of 135 people were injured, with 81 transported to hospitals in serious or critical condition. There was no overall condition update available Saturday, but a telephone survey of five hospitals found nine of 34 patients still critical. Many were described as having crush injuries.

Homeless 90210: Slumming time and the livin's easy

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—Being homeless in this upper crust enclave is not exactly like living on the street in other places. There are handouts of $2,000 and bottles of Dom Perignon, lucky finds of Gucci shoes and diamond-encrusted bracelets, a chance to rub shoulders with rich and famous locals such as Mark Wahlberg and Master P, even empty houses to live in.

"This is the finest place you can be," said Isaac Young, an affable 59-year-old with a wide grin and a smooth baritone voice who has been homeless in Beverly Hills since 1992.

In this manicured community of 35,000, Rolls Royces and Lamborghinis glide around city streets, movie stars live in gated mansions and Rodeo Drive price tags provoke gasps from tourists.

But the city also features about 30 rather scruffy residents who live in parks, bus shelters and alleyways.

They're an incongruous sight amid the shows of superfluous wealth, underscoring the pervasiveness of the huge homeless population in Los Angeles County. Some 74,000 people live on the streets or in shelters, making the county the nation's capital of homelessness.

ACROSS THE NATION

Texas reporter apologizes for maternity ward probe

LUBBOCK, Texas (AP)—No charges will be pursued in the case of a Lubbock television station reporter arrested last year after trying to gauge security at two Amarillo hospitals, according to an agreement announced Saturday. Cecelia Lynn Coy-Jones, 33, a reporter for NBC affiliate KCBD-TV, was arrested on charges of attempted aggravated kidnapping in March 2007 after walking into a nursery with a large bag and asking questions about child abduction security. Coy-Jones said she was doing an undercover investigation into security at hospital maternity wards a few weeks after a baby was snatched from a Lubbock hospital by a woman in scrubs who allegedly hid the newborn in her purse.

Ex-Antioch teachers launch school without campus

YELLOW SPRINGS, Ohio (AP)—In a wood-paneled basement filled with boxes of nuts, bolts and screws, a college journalism class is under way. Naked wooden beams and ductwork hang overhead. The instructor's voice competes with the sound of the furnace, which kicks on from time to time. This makeshift classroom is part of a patchwork of homes, churches and offices cobbled together to form the "Nonstop Liberal Arts Institute," spawned by former professors of Antioch College, which closed temporarily earlier this year amid financial problems. Professors launched the institute this week to preserve the school's spirit and maintain its core of teachers. "We want to keep the DNA alive," said Scott Warren, former associate professor of philosophy. "We want to keep the soul moving until we get the campus back." Classes are being held just about anywhere in southwest Ohio, including a Buddhist meditation center and an office above a mattress store.

Asia

Pakistan pursues diplomacy with US on border raids

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP)—Pakistan's government eased its rhetoric Saturday against unilateral U.S. attacks on militant havens near the Afghan border, saying it hopes quiet diplomacy will persuade Washington that the raids only inflame sentiment against leaders of both countries.

Defense Minister Ahmad Mukhtar claimed Washington already has agreed to curtail its military activities against militants in Pakistan, although a missile strike Friday killed at least 12 people.

Most U.S. cross-border activity has been limited to missiles fired by unmanned drone aircraft. But in a Sept. 3 attack, helicopter-borne U.S. ground forces were used in an operation that killed at least 15, an escalation of U.S. military force.

"As far as my information, we have taken it up at the highest level with the State Department and Pentagon," Mukhtar said in an apparent reference to the U.S. using ground forces.

"They have given us assurance that it would not be repeated. The agreement we have with them is that we will exchange information and the Pakistan military or (paramilitary) forces will take action against terrorists in Pakistan," Mukhtar added.

The White House declined comment on the remarks, as it largely has done since reports emerged Thursday that President Bush secretly approved more aggressive cross-border operations in July as part of a strategy to fight the resurgent Taliban in Afghanistan.

Since Aug. 13, there have been at least seven reported missile strikes, as well as the ground forces operation, in tribally governed territory where the government has little control. The border region is considered a likely hiding place for al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden and his deputy, Ayman al-Zawahri.

AP

Supporters of Pakistan's opposition Tahrik-e-Insaf party chant slogans during a rally to condemn U.S. strikes in Pakistani tribal areas along Afghanistan border, Saturday, Sept. 13, 2008 in Lahore, Pakistan.

Newspaper: 2 bomb blasts in central Myanmar kill 2

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—Two bombs exploded at a nightspot in a rural town in central Myanmar, killing two people, a state newspaper reported Saturday.

The blasts occurred 10 minutes apart Thursday night at a lounge in Kyauk-kyi township, the state-run New Light of Myanmar said.

One man and one woman were killed and nine people were wounded, it said. The bombs went off while authorities inspected another explosive device that was discovered before it detonated, the newspaper said.

The report did not speculate on who might have carried out the bombings or why, but described the perpetrators as "terrorists."

The military government announced Monday that it had arrested several people accused of organizing bombings and demonstrations in Myanmar's cities, including the new capital of Naypyitaw. Among those arrested were prominent human rights activists and people the junta said were plotting to topple the government.

On Saturday, Amnesty International expressed concern for prominent anti-government activist Nilar Thein, who was arrested Wednesday in Yangon after more than a year on the run.

"She is under interrogation in Aung Tha Pyay Detention Center in Yangon ... and is at risk of torture and other ill-treatment," said a statement e-mailed by Amnesty, a London-based human rights group.

Thein is a member of the 88 Generation Students, a group that organized anti-government demonstrations over economic issues in August last year. The protesters were arrested, but the demonstrations grew in size and number and were violently put down by the army in late September 2007. The U.N. estimated at least 31 people were killed.

China landslide death toll rises to 254

BEIJING (AP)—The death toll has risen to 254 in a landslide triggered by the collapse of an illegal mining dump, which engulfed a village in northern China, a government official said Sunday.

By late Saturday, rescuers had identified 128 of the dead bodies recovered after Monday's accident in Shanxi province's Xiangfen county, a duty officer surnamed Zhang at the Shanxi provincial government told The Associated Press.

The tally could rise as more than 1,000 rescue workers comb through 74 acres of sludge and mining waste covering the area, where hundreds more people could be buried.

The landslide Monday in Shanxi province's Xiangfen county was triggered when the retaining wall of a mining dump containing tons of liquid iron-ore waste collapsed, inundating the village of 1,300 residents and an outdoor market with hundreds of patrons in a matter of minutes.

Authorities have refused to give an estimate for the number of people missing. Earlier in the week, state media quoted government officials as saying hundreds could be dead but later denied making those statements.

Rescue workers and survivors have told The Associated Press that hundreds remained missing.

Identifying the bodies has proved difficult because most of the workers at the illegal mine were migrants from elsewhere in Shanxi, or from Chongqing city and central Hubei province, state media has said, citing rescuers.

The official Xinhua News Agency cited the head of the rescue effort as saying the team was searching for bodies in a 330-yard ditch filled with silt.

Malaysia frees journalist, 2 others still held

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—A Malaysian journalist detained in an apparent government crackdown using a tough security law was freed Saturday, but an opposition lawmaker and another journalist remained under arrest, officials said.

Home Minister Syed Hamid Albar defended the trio's seizure Friday under the Internal Security Act, which allows indefinite detention without trial. He said it was necessary to prevent racial conflicts and denied it was to thwart opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim's bid to seize power by Sept. 16.

"There is no logic at all for it to be related to Sept. 16. The current arrests have to do with public order being in jeopardy, security being threatened, so we have to take preventive measures," he told reporters.

Rights groups, lawyers and politicians have condemned the arrests, which sparked fears of a major crackdown on dissent.

Anwar accused Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi's government of trying to "engineer an atmosphere of fear and instability" to avert his bid to seize power.

"Instead of pursuing a reform agenda, it has chosen to burn the country to save itself and to maintain its odious grip on power," he said in a statement.

But Syed Hamid said police had "strong and good reasons to believe racial conflicts" could occur, and that there were no plans for further arrests.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Typhoon Sinlaku floods low-lying areas of Taiwan

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—Typhoon Sinlaku slammed into Taiwan with heavy rain and strong winds Sunday, flooding low-lying regions and causing landslides that disrupted traffic and halted trains and domestic flights, officials said. Sinlaku made landfall in coastal Ilan County in northeast Taiwan at 1:30 a.m. local time, but quickly turned away and headed back out to sea, the Central Weather Bureau said. "It's hanging around at the ocean near our coasts," said meteorologist Lee Hsiang-yuan. "It may move north, but we will not rule out another landfall on Taiwan." Domestic flights were canceled, trains stopped running and several mountain highways were blocked by landslides, according to the Disaster Relief Center. The center warned that 55 rivers are prone to flash flooding and warned people living nearby to take precautions. More than 300 people were evacuated overnight from low-lying areas in Taoyuan and Hsinchu counties in northern Taiwan, it said.

Thai officials lift state of emergency in Bangkok

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP)—Thailand's acting prime minister has lifted a state of emergency in Bangkok that was imposed Sept. 2 amid an ongoing political crisis. Acting Prime Minister Somchai Wongsawat made the announcement Sunday after meeting with the country's army chief and other senior security officials. He said that political tensions remained but they did not justify keeping the Thai capital under emergency rule. A state of emergency rule was imposed 12 days ago after violent clashes between government supporters and opponents left one person dead. Calm was quickly restored. Parliament is scheduled to meet Wednesday to choose a new prime minister after Samak Sundaravej was ordered to resign last week by the Constitutional Court.

Bombs claimed by Muslim militants kill 18 in India

NEW DELHI (AP)—A series of bombs exploded at a park and crowded shopping areas across India's capital Saturday evening, killing at least 18 people and wounding dozens. Muslim extremists claimed to be behind the latest in a recent wave of attacks that has killed more than 100. The bombs were clearly timed for maximum bloodshed and panic. Placed in jammed shopping districts, the explosives began to go off just before sundown— prime time for weekend shoppers in crowded, chaotic New Delhi—sending thousands fleeing in fear. Home Minister Shivraj Patil said at least 18 people had been killed in five explosions, though some media reports put the death toll as high as 25. Mayor Arti Mehra said at least 61 had been injured. "It's a very cowardly act of violence," Mehra told reporters near the scene of two of the explosions, in the M-Block market of the upscale Greater Kailash neighborhood. "They want to break the spirit of Delhi. They have tried this in other places before and they have not succeeded and they will not succeed here. They will not scare us."

World

Russians troops leave west, but remain in Georgia

TBILISI, Georgia (AP)—Russian soldiers and armored vehicles pulled back from positions deep in western Georgia on Saturday, meeting a closely watched withdrawal deadline a month after the war between the former Soviet republics.

A Georgian policeman was shot dead near the edge of a breakaway Moscow-backed province, adding to tensions in areas where Russian troops are supposed to cede control to unarmed European Union monitors within weeks.

Georgia's government, meanwhile, pressed its claim ethnic Georgians are being persecuted in South Ossetia, the separatist region at the heart of the war. Officials said Ossetian paramilitary fighters doused Georgians with kerosene and ordered them to leave their villages.

Starting before dawn, hundreds of Russian soldiers packed up their gear and abandoned earthen-walled bases they had set up on the outskirts of the Black Sea port of Poti and at three other locations in western Georgia that they had promised to leave by Monday.

"They have fulfilled the commitment" made in an agreement worked out by French President Nicolas Sarkozy last week, Georgian Security Council chief Alexander Lomaia told The Associated Press.

But Lomaia said that even with the departure of those 250 soldiers and 20 armored vehicles pulled, some 1,200 Russian soldiers still remained at 19 positions inside Georgia.

He stressed that Georgia—like the European Union and the United States—demands a full Russian withdrawal to prewar positions, in accordance with a cease-fire that Sarkozy brokered a month ago.

Russia is not willing to do that and is tightening its grip on the breakaway provinces of South Ossetia and Abkhazia.

Pushed by the West, Russian President Dmitry Medvedev promised last week to withdraw from the Poti positions and from posts ringing the two separatist regions within 10 days of the deployment of 200 EU monitors in buffer zones around the two areas. The EU monitors are supposed to be in place by Oct. 1.

But the Kremlin has announced plans to maintain 7,600 soldiers in Abkhazia and South Ossetia themselves and has formally recognized them as independent nations, deepening the worst crisis in Russia's rocky post-Cold War relations with the West.

AP

Russian soldiers with a Russian flag sit atop amored vehicle as they pull out of their positions heading to Georgia's breakaway province of Abkhazia near Zugdidi, Georgia, Saturday, Sept. 13, 2008.

Plane crash in central Russia kills all 88 aboard

MOSCOW (AP)—A plane carrying 88 people crashed in central Russia, killing all on board, an emergency official said Sunday.

The Boeing-737 traveling from Moscow to Perm went down about 3:40 a.m. Sunday, Emergency Situations Ministry spokeswoman Irina Andrianova said.

There was no indication of a terrorist attack, she said.

The plane, operated by a division of Aeroflot, was on its approach to land in Perm when it crashed into an unpopulated area of the city, she said. A total of 82 passengers, including seven children, and six crew were on board, she said.

She said there was no damage or deaths on the ground and investigators were working to determine what caused the crash.

Aeroflot spokeswoman Irina Danenberg said in televised comments that the plane was at an altitude of about 3600 feet when it lost contact with ground dispatchers.

Perm is about 750 miles east of Moscow.

Perm emergency official Valery Tivunov said in televsied comments that the plane fell onto train tracks just a few dozen meters (yards) from an apartment building.

Russia and the other former Soviet republics have some the world's worst air traffic safety records, according to the International Air Transport Association.

Experts have blamed weak government controls, poor pilot training and a cost-cutting mentality among many carriers for affecting safety.

Sunday's crash was the second involving a Boeing 737 in the former Soviet Union in the past month. A Boeing flying from the Central Asian nation of Kyrgystan to Iran crashed shortly after takeoff on Aug. 24, killing 56 people.

Death toll in Bolivia unrest reaches 18

LA PAZ, Bolivia (AP)—President Evo Morales on Saturday accused an opposition governor of using foreign thugs against government supporters in violence that has claimed at least 18 lives and prompted him to declare martial law in a breakaway province.

In a bid to defuse the bitter dispute over a new constitution and land reform that threatens to tear apart the poor Andean nation, Chile called for an emergency meeting of South American leaders on Monday.

"A larger tragedy has to be avoided," said Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez, a strong ally of Bolivia's leftist president, confirming he would attend the meeting.

Morales described as an ambush a gunbattle in the eastern province of Pando on Thursday that led him to impose martial law the next day. "These people were massacred," he told a news conference on Saturday.

Interior Minister Alfredo Rada said 16 people were killed in the clash - the majority of them peasants who back Morales - and authorities said another two people died Friday at Pando's main airfield as government troops took control, opening fire to disperse protesters.

Bolivia's first indigenous president said he would not hesitate to extend the state of siege if necessary to the other three pro-autonomy provinces in eastern Bolivia where separatists seized government offices and natural gas fields last week in the gravest crisis of his nearly 3-year-old presidency.

Government opponents are demanding Morales cancel a Dec. 7 referendum on a new constitution that would help him centralize power, run for a second consecutive term and transfer fallow terrain to landless peasants.

The emergency summit in Chile comes after both Morales and Chavez expelled the U.S. ambassadors in their countries to protest what they say is Washington's inciting of anti-government protesters in Bolivia.

Few safeguards for Mexican produce heading north

ALLENDE, Mexico (AP)—At the end of a dirt road in northern Mexico, the conveyer belts processing hundreds of tons of vegetables a year for U.S. and Mexican markets are open to the elements, protected only by a corrugated metal roof.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration suspects this packing plant, its warehouse in McAllen, Texas, and a farm in Mexico are among the sources of the United States' largest outbreak of food-borne illness in a decade, which infected at least 1,440 people with a rare form of salmonella.

A plant manager confirmed to The Associated Press that workers handling chili peppers aren't required to separate them according to the sanitary conditions in which they were grown, offering a possible explanation for how such a rare strain of salmonella could have caused such a large outbreak.

The AP has found that while some Mexican producers grow fruits and vegetables under strict sanitary conditions for export to the U.S., many don't—and they can still send their produce across the border easily.

Neither the U.S. nor the Mexican governments impose any safety requirements on farms and processing plants. That includes those using unsanitary conditions—like those at Agricola Zaragoza—and brokers or packing plants that mix export-grade fruits and vegetables with lower-quality produce. In fact, the only thing a Mexican company needs to do to sell produce to the United States is to register online.

At least 18 killed in bombings, shootings in Iraq

BAGHDAD (AP)—Gunmen on Saturday abducted and killed four employees of an Iraqi television station who were filming a program about the Islamic holy month of Ramadan, one of a series of attacks in Iraq that left at least 18 people dead.

A bomb concealed in a kiosk used to sell ice killed four security personnel and wounded nine people at a checkpoint in Baghdad, Iraqi officials said. Northeast of the capital, eight Kurdish soldiers died in a roadside bombing that reflected how ethnic tensions remain dangerously high.

The attacks underscored the persistent threat in Iraq despite significant security gains since last year.

Al-Sharqiya television said its employees were seized at noon in the northern city of Mosul as they filmed an episode for a program about Iftar, the evening meal at which Muslims break their sunrise-to-sunset fast during Ramadan, which began this month.

The dead included Mussab Mahmoud al-Azawi, head of the station's office in Mosul, two cameramen and a driver.

An announcer on the station, which broadcasts to Iraq from Dubai by satellite, blamed the killings on "dark forces that are destabilizing the security in Iraq, silencing the voices of freedom and attacking the national independent media."

Brig. Khalid Abdul-Sattar, the police spokesman in Ninevah province, said two suspects were being questioned after a pistol and an assault rifle were found in their car in the area of the slayings.

Insurgents remain active in Mosul despite a U.S.-Iraqi offensive against them and setbacks in urban centers elsewhere in Iraq. Al-Sharqiya is owned by a former chief of radio and TV for Saddam Hussein and has been accused of being sympathetic to the former Baathists who once ruled Iraq.

Prominent employees of Al-Sharqiya have fallen victim to Iraq's violence in the past. Those slain include correspondent Ahmed al-Rasheed and Walid Hassan, a comedian who performed in a series that mocked coalition forces and Iraqi governments after the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq in 2003.

Health & Fitness

Tempest in a bottle

By SHARI ROAN
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Gordie Bailey Jr. had been in college only one month before he overdosed on alcohol. Urged on by members of a fraternity he was intent on joining, the 18-year-old drank until he passed out, was dumped onto a couch and was found dead the next morning. The 2004 incident at the University of Colorado was one of the approximately 1,700 alcohol-related deaths that occur among college students each year in the United States. They include traffic accidents, falls, suffocation, drowning and alcohol poisoning. Hundreds of thousands of other students commit crimes, become crime victims, fail classes, make poor sexual decisions or sicken themselves by drinking too much alcohol. In a survey published last year by the American College Health Association, just over one-third of college students admitted they had binged on alcohol at least once in the previous two weeks—a number that appears to be rising.

Underage drinking has long alarmed college administrators and health professionals. But now a deep schism is forming among those same people on how to address the problem.

Last month, more than 100 college presidents signed a petition calling for a debate on whether the minimum legal drinking age should be lowered from 21 to 18.

The statement says in part: "Our experience as college and university presidents convinces us that twenty-one is not working. A culture of dangerous, clandestine `binge-drinking'—often conducted off-campus—has developed."

Some health professionals agree it's time to discuss the proposal, but other health experts and college officials are aghast.

Each side has statistics to support its position—but most of the health and safety evidence falls squarely on the side of an age-21 limit.

"There is a growing body of knowledge that suggests strong reasons for parents and other concerned people to try to keep alcohol out of the hands of young people as long as we can," says Susan Foster, vice president and director of policy research at the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University.

Statistics on traffic fatalities prove the law works, says Michele Simon, research and policy director at the Marin Institute, an alcohol industry watchdog group in San Rafael, Calif. In 1984, a federal standard was established setting the minimum legal drinking age at 21. Since then, traffic fatalities among drivers ages 18 to 20 have fallen by an estimated 13 percent, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

"That is a really important measure of success," says Simon. "Back in the 1970s when states started lowering the drinking age to 18, that's when this experiment began. There were increases in traffic fatalities, and people said let's go back to the way it was. We forget there is so much science and historical context here. We have been down this road before."

■ Among those studies comparing the years before 1984 with the current era was a 2001 report from the National Institute on Drug Abuse, which found that college students who reported drinking in the last month fell from 82 percent in 1980 to 67 percent in 2000.

LOS ANGELES TIMES

Most young adults learn about alcohol through trial and error.

■ In 2007, the University of Michigan's annual Monitoring the Future survey found that annual alcohol use by high school seniors has dropped from 77 percent in 1991 to 66 percent last year.

Perhaps the strongest evidence for the harmful health effects of drinking at a young age come from studies on biology and addiction, Foster says.

■ A 2002 report from the American Medical Association, citing numerous studies, concluded that alcohol use during adolescence and young adulthood causes damage to memory and learning capabilities.

■ A study in the 2006 Archives of Pediatrics & Adolescent Medicine found that teens who began drinking before age 14 had a lifetime risk of alcohol dependence of 47 percent compared with 9 percent for those who began drinking at 21. For each additional year under age 21 of drinking, the greater the odds he or she would develop alcohol dependence. Though the cause of this correlation is unknown, some experts believe pure biology—priming the young brain to need alcohol—is involved.

"This is a public health problem and a medical problem," Foster says. "It's about the national failure to recognize addiction as a disease. If we think of it as kids behaving badly or breaking the rules, that gets in the way."

■ And in a 2002 analysis of 33 high-quality studies on the age-21 drinking law's effects, University of Minnesota researcher Traci L. Toomey found that all but one study showed the higher age resulted in lower rates of alcohol consumption and traffic crashes.

"It is the most well-studied alcohol control policy we have in this country," says Toomey, an associate professor in the school of public health. "Usually we find no effect when we do policy studies. Here we have this policy effect that is very consistent—a big chunk of the studies showing this inverse relationship."

A growing number of college administrators and health professionals aren't convinced that the age-21 laws help curb problem drinking.

"Not all the evidence is on one side of the question," says John M. McCardell Jr., former president of Middlebury College in Vermont and founder of Choose Responsibility, a nonprofit group that advocates for changes in minimum-drinking-age laws and that circulated the college president's petition. "We're not ignoring science. There is science on both sides of the question."

For example, the reduction in traffic fatalities may be credited to other safety measures, such as the use of restraints, better automobile design, improved hospital trauma care and stricter traffic laws, in addition to the lower drinking age, some studies suggest.

Those on the age-18 side have studies as well.

■ A 2003 study from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found that, though fewer high school-age students drink now compared with the late 1970s, the rates of binge drinking among all adults 18 and older have risen. Published in the Journal of the American Medical Association, the study encompasses 1993 to 2001 and showed rates of binge drinking have increased the most (56 percent) among underage drinkers.

This out-of-control drinking may be fueled, McCardell says, by the age-21 laws, which drive underage youth to drink in clandestine settings and apart from older adults who might model more appropriate behavior.

"College presidents are limited on campus to a message of abstinence-only," he says. "They can't say drink moderately or drink responsibly. They can only say abstain."

Though alcohol-related traffic deaths have declined overall since 1982, deaths have begun to inch up again in recent years, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

■ A 2003 study showed that in many countries with lower minimum drinking ages, 15- and 16-year-olds are less likely to become intoxicated compared with teens in the U.S.

McCardell agrees that studies show the younger someone starts drinking, the greater the likelihood of developing alcohol dependence. But, he says, the 2006 Archives of Pediatrics & Adolescent Medicine study shows that the correlation is greatest at younger ages.

"Between 13 and 18, the effect is dramatic. But between 18 and 21 it's visible but insignificant," McCardell says. "What we ought to look at is not keeping 18-year-olds from drinking, it's keeping 13-year-olds from drinking."

A major question not answered by research is whether mild or occasional drinking, such as a beer or glass of wine, causes any physical harm or precipitates harmful behavior in 18-year-olds, says Brenda Chabon, associate professor of clinical psychiatry and behavioral sciences at Montefiore Medical Center in New York.

"It's the way people drink, not the fact of drinking," Chabon says. "What would harm a developing brain is repeated

See TEMPEST on Next Page

FIRST YEAR DEATH ANNIVERSARY

In Loving Memory of our beloved

†EFRAIN DAMIAN
ATALIG PALACIOS

We, the family would like to invite all our relatives and friends to join us in prayers as we commemorate the first year death anniversary of our dearly beloved EFRAIN DAMIAN ATALIG PALACIOS.

Rosaries are being said at San Jose Church in Tinian at 7:00 pm starting September 12 - 19, 2008. On the Final Day, September 20, 2008, Rosary will be said at 12:00 noon at their residence in Marpo Heights, Tinian and Mass will be offered at 6:00pm at San Jose Church in Tinian. Dinner will be served at their residence after the Mass.

Si Yu'us Ma'ase and thank you for your thoughts and prayers.

From: Norman, Sue, Sylvestre, Amanda, and Sheila Palacios

Life & Style

‘SNL’ debuts with Fey as Palin, Phelps as host

NEW YORK (AP)—Live from New York ... it’s Tina Fey as Gov. Sarah Palin.

After wild conjecture over whom would play Sen. John McCain’s running mate on “Saturday Night Live,” Fey returned to her old show for an opening sketch featuring her and Fey’s former “Weekend Update” co-host Amy Poehler as Sen. Hillary Clinton.

The NBC comedy show’s season premiere opened Saturday with a “nonpartisan message” where the two pleaded for an end to sexism in the presidential campaigns—which have seen Palin enjoy sudden popularity after Clinton’s loss to Sen. Barack Obama for the Democratic nomination.

“I didn’t want a woman to be president, I wanted to be president,” said Poehler, reprising her caricature of Clinton.

Many have said Fey bears a resemblance to Palin, a comparison alluded to in the sketch. A frustrated Clinton eventually broke down, complaining about Palin’s ease of ascendance and her “Tina Fey glasses.”

A few digs were made about Palin being less experienced than Clinton. As Poehler’s Clinton bragged about her foreign policy experience, Fey’s Alaskan governor exclaimed: “I can see Russia from my house!”

When Poehler said she disagreed with the Bush Doctrine, Fey’s Palin acknowledged, “I don’t know what that means”—a reference to Palin’s apparent confusion on the subject in her first major interview earlier this week on ABC.

Poehler wrapped up the sketch: “In conclusion, I invite the media to grow a pair. And if you can’t, I will lend you mine.”

“SNL” returned early this fall for its 34th season in part to capitalize on the presidential campaign. The show has historically had particular relevance in its political parodies.

Last season, a sketch making fun of the media’s fawning over Obama was seen as causing the press to rethink its coverage. In 2000, Darrell Hammond’s impression of Al Gore in the debates made the phrase “lock box” ubiquitous.

This year’s season debut was expected to dive even further into politics because of a planned appearance from Obama. But the Senator canceled his cameo early Saturday. His campaign spokeswoman Jen Psaki said Obama decided it was no longer appropriate because of the devastation caused by Hurricane Ike.

Olympic swimming champion Michael Phelps was the host. Phelps, who won eight gold medals at last month’s Beijing Olympics, said in his opening monologue: “This seriously is like the ninth best moment of my life.”

Phelps’ mother, Debbie, got in on the joke from the audience, as did William Shatner, who made an irreverent cameo.

The star swimmer stumbled over a number of lines, but also performed in a reprise of a sketch another athletic “SNL” host, Peyton Manning, played last season. As he did a similarly football-themed sketch, cast member Will Forte played a swimming coach trying to rally a despondent swim team in a locker room.

As team captain “Michael Phillips,” Phelps said: “I just don’t think I’m cut out for this whole swimming thing.”

AP

Writer-actress Tina Fey makes an appearance on MTV’s Total Request Live at MTV Studios, in this Tuesday, April 22, 2008 file photo in New York.

TEMPEST

From Page 18

hangovers and blackouts and head trauma from falling. But if someone were drinking moderately from age 18, I haven’t seen any data to show that would have harmful effects in the long run.”

There is little evidence in humans to suggest that mild to moderate drinking in late adolescence causes any damage, says David J. Hanson, professor emeritus of sociology at the State University of New York at Potsdam, who has studied the literature.

“The research is almost exclusively based on rats and humans who are alcohol addicted,” he says. “It doesn’t look at moderate drinking at all. We’ve got a lot of cross-cultural evidence that it isn’t harmful at all.”

The argument over the minimum legal drinking age has heated up in recent years due to publicity given to out-of-control drinking among college-age youth and tragic deaths such as Gordie Bailey Jr.’s.

“We need to ask what is driving this behavior,” Foster notes. “We’re really tolerating a culture of substance abuse on our college campuses. There is no evidence that lowering the drinking age would address these problems.”

The alcohol industry, which advertises heavily to college students, should come under the microscope, as well as the role of parents in setting attitudes and expectations for their children, she says.

Bailey’s stepfather, Michael B. Lanahan, who has started a foundation to raise awareness about college drinking, says he doesn’t know if a lower drinking age would have saved his stepson, but he’s pleased that the issue is getting attention.

“Parents have to question their own governance of the children in high school,” says Lanahan, who lives in Dallas. “Why do so many kids have fake IDs and we let it go? Why do bars get away with serving underage kids? If parents think college presidents are going to police this issue, they are sorely mistaken.”

Proposals to curb youth drinking should explore all solutions, not just lowering the drinking age, Toomey says.

“You can’t make conclusions without looking at what the research literature says,” she says. “McCardell makes these alternative proposals without backing up that they work.”

“It’s not 1984 any more,” McCardell says. “Who can object to examining this closer? We need to do whatever we can as parents, college presidents, responsible citizens to minimize the harm that people do to other people. That is a reasonable goal of public policy.”

DEATH AND FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

JUAN MANIBUSAN DIAZ

(Appitiur/Ghitipung)

Affectionately known as
“JUAN IKA”

September 14, 1938 - September 11, 2008

was called to his eternal rest on Thursday, September 11, 2008, at the age of 69.

In his new life, Juan now joins his:

Wife: Frederica Villagomez Diaz
Grandson: Juan Diaz
Great Grandson: Darren John Benavente Sablan
Parents: Agapito Joaquin Arriola Diaz and Maria Santa Maria Manibusan Diaz-Igibara
Step-Parent: Jesus Pangelinan Igibara
Parents-in-law: Eugenio Cruz and Ana Tenorio Villagomez
Sisters: Carmen Diaz Cruz, Asuncion Manibusan Diaz, Elvira Manibusan Igibara and Maria Jesusa Manibusan Igibara
Brothers and Sisters-in-law: Jesus Duenas Cruz, Manuel Tenorio and Maria Castro Dela Cruz, Jose Iglesias Torres, Herman Tenorio Villagomez and Romana Lizama Villagomez
Special Friend: Dolores Sablan Guerrero

The Love and Blessing of his memory will live in the hearts of his:

Children: Juan V. and Florence U. Diaz (Aaron Jay)
Norbert V. Diaz and Julie D. Camacho (Kenneth Eugene, Ann Margaret, Norbert Jr.)
Anna V. Diaz (Jonathan Derreck (†Darren John), Deanndrea Nicole/Zack Gonzalez (Emilio, Joel))
Carmen D. and Patricio F. Tudela (†Juan, Patrick Jr./Evira, Brandon Joshua, John Zachery, April Rickanae)
James V. and Betty Anne Dlc. Diaz (Brandon Anthony, Joshua James)
Patrick V. Diaz and Jessica Dlg. Tomokane (Frederika Maria)
Joaquin V. and Agnes S. Diaz (Kalyn Frederica)
Jeffrey V. and Lani Mae U. Diaz (Reana Rose, Luis Javin, Victoria Amparo, Jeffrey Bernard II, Derence Wilgene)
Francisco Joseph (Feng) V. Diaz

Brothers and Sisters and Spouses: Francisco Manibusan and Remedio Duenas Diaz, Asuncion Manibusan and Jerry Lee Jolin, Rosa Manibusan and Francisco Sablan Salas, Luis and Teresita Sablan Manibusan, Edward and Delfina Villagomez Manibusan

Brothers and Sisters-in-law: Raphael Manahane and Merced Villagomez Reyes, Agnes Maratita Villagomez, Bernadita Villagomez Torres, Cornelio Taitano and Joaquina Villagomez Castro, Jose Tenorio and Joy Villagomez

Special Friend: Maria Benavente Sedmik

Additionally survived by numerous cousins, nieces and nephews

Nightly rosary is being said at 7:00 p.m. at the family residence in Oleai, across San Jose Church, and daily masses are being offered at 6:00 a.m. at San Jose Church and 6:00 p.m. at San Vicente Church and San Roque Church. On Friday, September 19, 2008, his remains will be escorted from the Borja Funeral Home at 7:30 a.m. to Mount Carmel Cathedral. Mass of Christian Burial will be at 10:00 a.m. Burial will follow at Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

Un Dangkulu Na Si Yuus Maase Ginen I Familia

Falling for married man makes first love painful

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DearAbby

DEAR ABBY: I am 20 years old and had never been in love until recently. The only problem is, the man I fell for is married.

I knew "Craig" was married when I began talking to him at work. We have never "done" anything but talk, but sometimes that's all it takes. Craig was going through a separation, and we talked every day for hours at a time.

Now he doesn't want to talk at all. He says he needs time and doesn't want anyone to get hurt, but I am already hurt. I try to talk to him, but he doesn't respond. Craig is ignoring me now, and it's very painful. I have already fallen for him, and I am more than willing to wait, but each passing day it gets harder and harder.

Please advise me on what to do. Is love worth all the pain?

HEARTBROKEN IN OHIO

DEAR HEARTBROKEN: I have news for you. Love isn't painful when the love object is the right person and the love is returned. What's painful is rejection.

Your mistake was allowing your attraction to Craig to overwhelm your good sense. He started talking to you when he was separated and vulnerable. But now he has made up his mind to make a go of his marriage. Accept it, and if necessary, find another job. It would be less painful than seeing him every day.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I come from a family of big eaters who are not very health-conscious. They pride themselves on being exceptional cooks, and most of them are overweight.

Being younger and more active, I am thinner than most of my family members. I made a conscious choice to research weight loss and exercise so I could maintain a healthy lifestyle. However, this has caused my family to react with annoyance and hostility. They call me a "food snob" when I warn them about the risks they are taking with their food choices.

When I ask my broth er to drive me to a local track or swimming pool, he acts as if what I'm asking is ridiculous and stupid. What can I do to stop the condescending stares, snide remarks and enmity?

LOOKING OUT FOR MYSELF IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR LOOKING OUT: You deserve praise for "swimming against the tide" and changing your eating and exercise habits. It isn't easy to do when those around you are indulging in their "vices."

Please realize the path to clean and healthy living is one that each person must take individually. Every time you "warn" your family about their "risky" eating habits, it appears to them that you are being critical, and that is why they're reacting the way they do. Be less "helpful," and they will be less defensive.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I are in our early 50s and starting to spend a lot of time traveling in our RV and staying in RV parks and campgrounds.

My question is about sex. With everyone so close, how do folks handle this?

TWO FOR THE ROAD

DEAR T FOR THE R: I searched frantically for my manual on sex etiquette in RV communities, but seem to have misplaced it. However, to the best of my recollection, the way to "handle it" would be to find a spot to park your RV some distance away from the other vehicles, keep the windows shut and try to keep your voices down.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $12 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in price.)

Cynthia Nixon, Tim Conway among Emmy winners

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Cynthia Nixon, who gained fame and an Emmy with "Sex and the City," added a second trophy Saturday for a guest role on "Law & Order: Special Victims Unit."

Nixon was honored at the Creative Arts Primetime Emmys, which recognize technical and other achievements for the 2007-08 season and preceded next weekend's main ceremony.

Other acting honors went to Glynn Turman, named best guest actor in a drama for "In Treatment"; Kathryn Joosten, best guest actress in a comedy for "Desperate Housewives"; and Tim Conway, best guest actor in a comedy for "30 Rock."

Joosten's portrayal of Mrs. McCluskey on the ABC drama also earned an Emmy in 2005.

The creative arts Emmys will be shown as a special next Saturday on E! Entertainment, followed Sunday by ABC's live broadcast of the 60th Primetime Emmy Awards.

Among networks, HBO received a leading 16 awards, followed by ABC and PBS with 9 each. CBS earned eight awards and NBC six.

HBO's miniseries "John Adams" was Saturday's top winner with eight awards, including best costumes for a miniseries, movie or special. AMC's "Mad Men," the top series nominee, took home four awards, including best cinematography for an hourlong series.

AP

Actor Tim Conway poses with his award for Outstanding Guest Actor in a Comedy Series for his work on "30 Rock" in the press room at the Creative Arts Emmy Awards in Los Angeles on Saturday, Sept. 13, 2008.

Matt Damon, Wyclef Jean help Haitian storm victims

CABARET, Haiti (AP)—Matt Damon kept his cool as he helped distribute food from a truck that got stuck in the mud in a western Haitian town where Hurricane Ike left hundreds of people homeless and hungry.

He arrived with Haitian-born singer Wyclef Jean to hand out rice, beans and cooking oil in Cabaret, a town that saw 60 people die in flash floods when Ike grazed Haiti last week.

Things got rough when the truck carrying 300 bags of food ran into a ditch, forcing the rest of the caravan to stop. Hundreds of Haitians mobbed an SUV carrying the celebrities, chanting "Wyclef!"

"I want to see Wyclef because he is my artist," said Jean Sadrac, an unemployed 25-year-old. "I want Wyclef to help me with money or water."

Jean clambered onto the roof of the SUV to calm the crowd, while bodyguards helped Damon make his way toward the truck with the food. He reached it easily; nobody recognized him.

Damon said he enjoyed being in a place where few people have seen his movies.

"It's nice, it's really easy to move through a crowd like this," Damon told The Associated Press, grinning wryly as he watched Jean talk to the crowd.

About 20 people from Jean's Yele Haiti charity formed a barrier around the back of the food truck, which leaned perilously to one side. The distribution took place right there. Damon tossed the bags to Jean, who placed them on the heads of women as they approached one by one.

Outside the human chain, one young man jumped up and down, waving a DVD of "The Bourne Ultimatum" that he had retrieved from his house after finally recognizing Damon, who laughed and nodded.

The two stars then walked to a nearby church where about 600 people were sheltered. They knelt to talk to an emaciated, elderly man lying on the muddy floor before they began serving food. Damon poured red vegetable sauce over plates of rice that Jean handed out to people.

Damon and Jean encouraged more people to help the United Nations raise more than US$100 million for an estimated 800,000 Haitians in need of aid after four devastating tropical storms and hurricanes since mid-August.

"What I'm doing, I'm doing from the heart because I love Haiti," Jean said.

AP

Actor Matt Damon, top center, gives a sack of rice to a Haitian-born singer Wyclef Jean during a food distribution operation for flood victims by Wyclef Jean's foundation, Yele Haiti, in Cabaret, Haiti, Saturday, Sept. 13, 2008.

Serena Williams steps out for Simmons' runway show

NEW YORK (AP)—Serena Williams inspires her legion of fans as a world-class athlete, but for fashion inspiration, she turns to Kimora Lee Simmons.

Less than a week after winning the U.S. Open, the tennis champ stepped out in a black dress and pretty-yet-painful-looking platform heels to support Simmons at the designer's Baby Phat show at Roseland Ballroom in Manhattan Friday night.

"I love Kimora," gushed Williams, who moonlights as a fashion designer for Aneres (her name spelled backward). "She's a great person and I love her fashions."

Williams said she's amazed by Simmons' "whole persona." The star of The Style Network reality series "Kimora: Life in the Fab Lane" has never been shy about her love for the good life and all things blingy.

Simmons' spring collection marked the 10th anniversary of the urban wear line, which she launched in 1999 with then-husband Russell Simmons.

As expected, her latest show was high on fabulosity.

She trotted out jumpsuits, hot pants and dresses in a variety of colors including turquoise and lilac. Sparkly gold panties peeked out from under a super short khaki dress; in a more ladylike look, a safari-inspired denim jacket topped a pair of wide-legged pants - worn with heels, natch.

Men's looks ranged from a laidback white suit to shiny gold-tinged shorts in pink and blue. The shoes: gold and silver loafers.

AP

Kimora Lee Simmons acknowledges the applause with her daughters Ming, left, and Aoki, following the showing of her spring 2009 Baby Phat collection during Fashion Week in New York, Friday, Sept. 12, 2008.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

HAVE YOU BEEN READING THE PAPERS? GROWN-UPS REALLY HAVE THE WORLD FOULED UP.
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9/15
ACID RAIN, TOXIC WASTES, HOLES IN THE OZONE, SEWAGE IN THE OCEANS, AND ON AND ON!
THE ONLY BRIGHT SIDE TO ALL THIS IS THAT EVENTUALLY THERE MAY NOT BE A PIECE OF THE PLANET WORTH FIGHTING OVER.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

"AMANDA IRKBURGER AND EARL SMOOCH WERE JOINED IN HOLY MATRIMONY LAST SATURDAY"
"...THE RECEPTION WAS HELD AT THE MULLIGAN PINES COUNTRY CLUB"
NICE PICTURE OF YOU
THERE WAS CAKE
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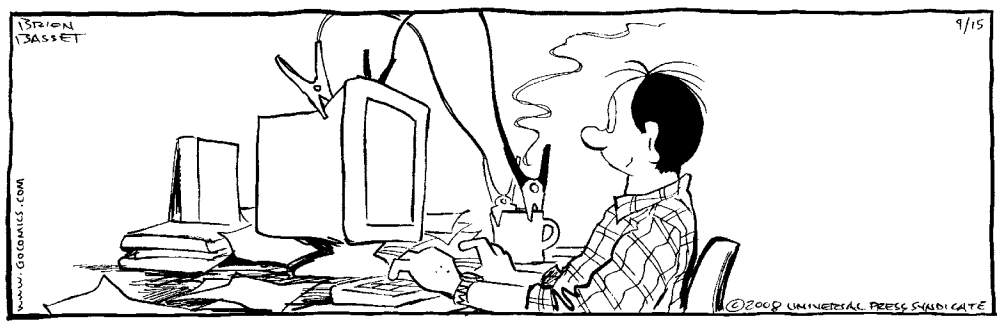
JIM DAVIS 9-15
Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate

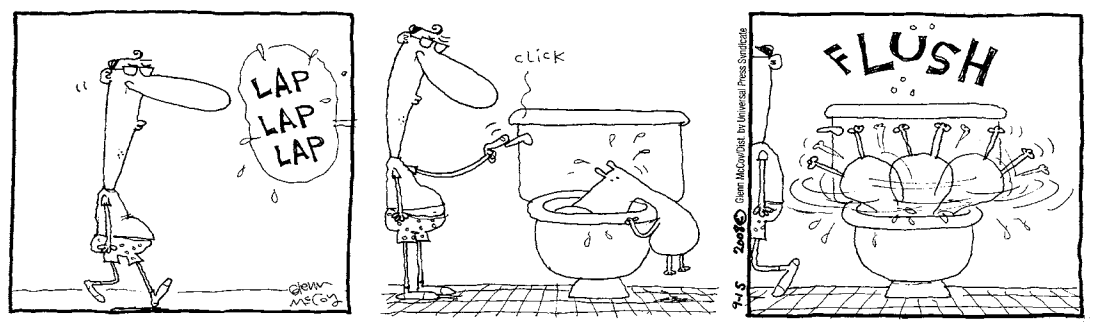
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Lingerie item
4 Will Ferrell Christmas movie
7 Rate of walking
11 Craving
13 Civil —
14 Old Italian money
15 Hodge-podge
16 Ostrich's cousin
17 Prayer conclusion
18 Confuse
20 Lends a hand
22 St. Bernard's burden
24 Rough struggle
28 Gab
32 Happen
33 "That hurts!"
34 Beer holder
36 14-Across' replacement
37 Bonfire residue
39 Other than
41 Robberies
43 Chat-room chuckling
44 Bobcat
46 Dark hours
50 Horse-back pastime
53 Exist
55 Film —
56 Sandwich cookie
57 Author Fleming
58 Mentor
59 Bosc or Bartlett
60 Old soap ingredient
61 Ball prop

DOWN
1 Amorphous mass
2 Hold the scepter
3 "Yeah, right!"
4 Lamb's mommy
5 Dalai —
6 Still-life subject, often
7 Corporate barrier of a sort
8 Intend
9 Rage
10 Light brown
12 Rose to address the group
19 Obtain
21 Twosome
23 Jewel
25 Gulf War missile
26 Entice
27 Piccadilly statue
28 Jacket
29 Call for silence
30 Rue the run
31 Massage
35 Solidify
38 Pigs' digs
40 Trinity member
42 Slow mover
45 MRI forerunner
47 Toe woe
48 Employ
49 Authentic
50 Burst
51 Raw rocks
52 Meadow
54 Away from WSW

Solution time: 24 mins.

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C	O	P	O	U	T	■	E	P	O	N	Y	M
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A	N	I	■	C	O	C	O	A	■	G	A	B
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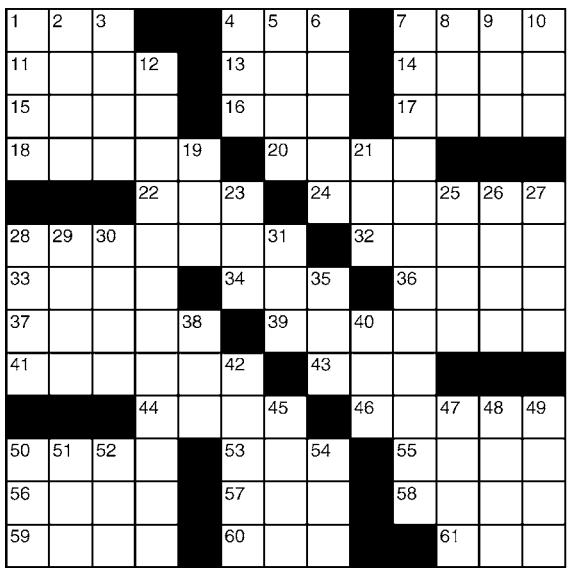
Saturday's answer 9-15



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Prince Harry, 24; Dave Annable, 29; Tommy Lee Jones, 62; Oliver Stone, 62

Happy Birthday: Take care of personal situations and partnerships that need a little tender loving care. Get out and socialize more. Attend functions that will stimulate your creative side. A new pastime or hobby will help you relax and allow you to figure out what you are going to do with some of the people and situations you face. Your numbers are 4, 12, 14, 23, 30, 37, 41

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Things are hopping—the way you like it—but your inclination to take on too much will probably lead to falling short of your expectations. Choose wisely so you don't miss the full benefit of doing what you truly want to do. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): There will be hidden agendas going on all around you. Keep your antenna up and fine tuned for any possible slip of the tongue from one of your friends or colleagues. Keep a tight lip and an open mind and ear. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Someone observing you will catch on quickly to ulterior motives. Act fast and include this person in such a way that he or she becomes an ally, not an enemy. You will not be denied what you want at a personal level. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Think it, believe it, become it. Don't let emotional matters stand in the way. Focus on business enterprises or improving your reputation or status. You will parlay your way into a cushy position that will bring plenty of benefits. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Stick close to home where you can get the most done. Love, home improvement or just about anything personal will work for you. If you try to change your professional game plan, you can expect to face opposition. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Pull everything together before it's too late. If you let your emotions dictate you will end up saying and doing things you'll regret. You don't have to let your personal objectives interfere with your financial accomplishments. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Don't trust anyone with whom you are dealing at work, school, in corporate organizations or hospitals, banks or government offices. They will play on your emotions and stand in the way of your progress. Focus on accomplishing your plans. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Your changing attitude and flippant way of jumping from one thing to another will keep everyone guessing. Use your ingenuity. You can now unleash your creative ideas and receive the recognition you've worked so hard for. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Don't think you are putting one over on anyone. Emotional ups and downs will put you in a precarious position before the day is over. You may get ahead but, if it's at someone else's expense, there will be no gratification. ✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): You may be enticed by someone who seems to have his or her life in order. Don't get talked into joining a group or making a lifestyle change that really doesn't suit your personality or your future goals. You can't put your life on hold for someone else. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): You are ready to get serious about love, money and your future. Look at what's available to you and start to work toward your goals. Money is in the stars and will come to you through an unusual source. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Don't let anyone stand in your way. Push hard and consider only partnerships that are beneficial. Choose carefully with whom you confide and stick to your convictions. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are sensitive and compassionate but practical. You are a gifted speaker and a creative thinker. You are responsible, intense and strong-minded.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

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5			1				2	9
		6			7			
2		9	3		6	8		7

Difficulty Level ★ 9/15

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

7	6	3	5	9	4	2	1	8
1	2	4	8	6	7	5	9	3
9	5	8	2	3	1	7	4	6
3	1	9	4	5	8	6	2	7
8	4	2	6	7	9	3	5	1
6	7	5	1	2	3	4	8	9
5	3	7	9	1	2	8	6	4
2	8	1	7	4	6	9	3	5
4	9	6	3	8	5	1	7	2

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 9/13

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

SKI TRIP TO THE CANADIAN ROCKIES **Solution: 11 letters**

A	E	P	A	H	S	E	G	A	L	L	I	V	T	A
T	C	R	E	S	T	A	U	R	A	N	T	S	F	C
R	O	C	U	A	C	N	A	(K)	I	S	K	A	I	T
E	N	U	O	T	K	E	E	O	(C)	E	M	D	L	I
B	D	O	R	M	A	S	N	G	R	(O)	R	E	S	V
L	I	Y	S	I	M	R	E	T	U	O	(R)	P	L	I
A	T	R	P	A	S	O	E	S	N	I	B	A	C	T
D	I	E	O	I	E	M	D	P	S	E	D	I	R	I
V	O	N	R	D	T	S	O	A	M	L	R	E	T	E
E	N	E	T	R	E	W	Y	A	T	E	O	C	D	S
N	S	C	O	R	D	S	I	E	L	I	T	P	A	R
T	A	S	V	E	L	L	C	N	L	P	O	V	E	E
U	E	I	R	L	O	D	G	E	T	L	I	N	I	V
R	C	L	I	M	A	T	E	T	N	E	A	N	S	I
E	S	H	G	I	E	L	S	Y	W	T	R	V	E	R

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Accommodations, Acre, Activities, Adventure, Alberta, Alpine, Ascent, Cabins, Climate, Conditions, Descent, Guided, Hills, Lakes, Lift, Lodge, Melt, Nakiska, Nordic, Peaks, Powder, Resort, Restaurant, Rides, Rivers, Rock, Route, Scenery, Season, Service, Sleighs, Slope, Sport, Temperature, Tourism, Treks, Valley, View, Villages, Winter

Last Saturday's Answer: Track

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Classified Ads

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- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on either Sunday or Monday issues.

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Classified Ads

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Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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Attorney at Law
P.O. Box 505301
First Floor, San Jose Court Bldg.
Cor. Ghiyeghi St. & Wischira Way
San Jose, Saipan, MP 96950
TELEPHONE: (670) 234-8801
FAX: (670) 234-1251

Attorney for Plaintiff
WELLS FARGO FINANCIAL SAIPAN, INC.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

WELLS FARGO FINANCIAL SAIPAN INC., Plaintiff, v. AARON TAWNEY AND AGNELIA TAWNEY, Defendants.	)))))))	CIVIL CASE NO. 08-0268 **SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION**

TO THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANT: AARON TAWNEY

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is given to you herewith, within thirty (30) days after the service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Law Offices of Danilo T. Aguilar, whose address is P.O. Box 505301, First Floor San Jose Court Bldg., Cor. Ghiyeghi St. & Wischira Way, San Jose, Saipan MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of Court at the Guma Hustisia, Susupe, Saipan MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of the Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment of default may be taken against you for the relief in the complaint.

By order of this Court.

Clerk of Courts
Commonwealth of the
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Saipan Tribune

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COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Coastal Resources Management Office (CRMO) will hold a public hearing regarding Coastal Permit Application No. TMS-2008-X-074 submitted by Marianas Resort Development Company, Inc. through its authorized representative William S. Hofschneider, Consulting Engineer for the Matua Bay Resort & Golf Course Project. The project will be constructed in 2 phases which include: Phase I: 18-hole golf course, practice range, maintenance facilities, nursery, irrigation wells, piping and storage ponds, water supply wells & piping networks, reverse osmosis plant, wastewater treatment plant, stormwater retention ponds, back-up power generation facilities, re-alignment of 8th Avenue, public shoreline access; Phase II: Hotel and amenities, casino, parking stalls, plaza and water feature, chapel, tennis courts, pool and staff housing.

The public hearing will be held on Wednesday, October 01, 2008 at 6:30 pm, at the Tinian Elementary School Cafeteria, in San Jose Village, Tinian.

The public is invited to attend the hearing and make oral comments regarding this application. The Matua Bay Resort project file is open for review 7:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M. Monday – Thursday at the CRM office. Written comments may be submitted to the CRM Office located on the 2nd floor of the Morgen Building in Oleai, mailed to Coastal Resources Management Office, Caller Box 10007, or faxed to 664-8315. All written and oral comments received will be made a part of the permit application record, and will be considered in any decision made concerning the proposed project.

Please contact Coastal Resources Management at 664-8300/1 if you have any questions or require further information regarding this public hearing.

JOHN B. JOYNER, Ph.D.
Director
Coastal Resources Management Office

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PUBLIC NOTICE

E-MAIL ADDRESSES FOR INQUIRIES TO THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

In order to better serve the public the Department of Labor has discontinued the use of the Temporary Exit Notice. Persons holding entry permits from the Commonwealth that allow entry and exit for vacation, home leave, medical referral, or other purposes are no longer required to provide a Temporary Exit Notice. No one holding this kind of entry permit who exits the Commonwealth for a temporary stay in another jurisdiction and wishes to return to the Commonwealth will be adversely affected by the federalization cap. The Labor Department has an alternative means of assuring that every person holding this kind of entry permit will be re-admitted when they return to the Commonwealth.

The Department thanks those who patiently provided the temporary exit notices. That helped the Commonwealth comply with federal law quickly and effectively on a temporary basis. With new methods, and the Department's better automation capabilities, this temporary measure is no longer needed.

PUBLIC NOTICE

E-MAIL ADDRESSES FOR INQUIRIES TO THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

In order to better serve the public and to avoid waits or call-backs on the telephone system, the Department of Labor has established mailboxes on the government e-mail system for the most common inquiries. If you post your inquiry to one of these mailboxes, it will be answered promptly by a Department of Labor employee with responsibility for the area covered by your inquiry. You may call the Department of Labor on the established phone numbers if you prefer.

Employment Services

employservices@cnmi-gov.net

Please use this e-mail address for questions about JVAs, job openings, resumes, or services to persons looking for work. This e-mail address may not be used for submitting required documents to Employment Services.

Labor Processing

laborprocessing@cnmi-gov.net

Please use this e-mail address for questions about the status of initial applications, renewal applications, or transfer applications; or questions about Labor Processing forms posted on the website. This e-mail address may not be used for submitting required documents to Labor Processing.

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laborhearingoffice@cnmi-gov.net

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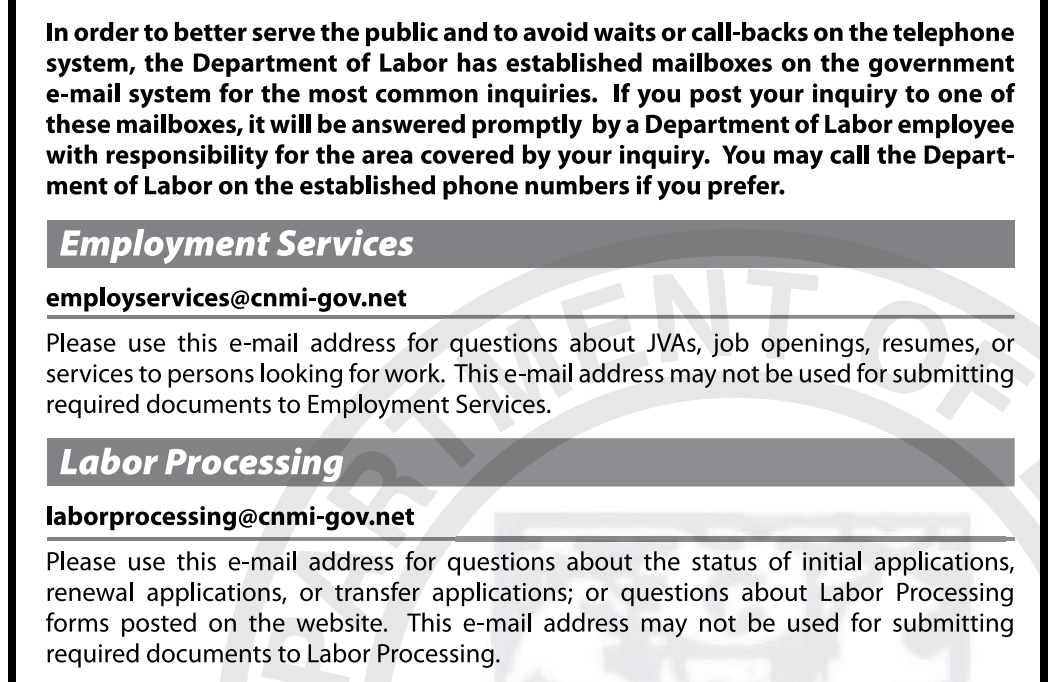

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING
Second Floor Afetña Square Building, San Antonio, P.O. Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone no. (670) 236-0956/0957 Facsimile no. (670) 236-0995

NOTICE OF HEARINGS PENDING DENIAL APPEALS

FOR SEPTEMBER 18, & 19, 2008

Notice is hereby given to the persons listed below to appear at the Hearing Office, Department of Labor, Second Floor, Afetña Square Building, San Antonio, on the date and at the time listed below. Please bring any documentation necessary to resolve the issues that led to the denial of your permit application. If you fail to appear or fail to bring required documentation, the appeal may be dismissed and an administrative order may be entered against you. Any employee who intends to request permission to transfer to a new employer must appear at the hearing to make that request; failure to appear may result in immediate denial of transfer relief.

Case No.	Employee	Employer	Hearing Date	Time
DC 08-737	Xu, Su	A L L Corporation	September 19, 2008	10:00 a.m.
DC 08-719	Dacquias, William W.	Aguon, Clyde N.	September 18, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-729	Wang, Wenlong	American Sunny Corporation	September 18, 2008	2:00 p.m.
DC 08-730	Yu, Haixia	American Sunny Corporation	September 18, 2008	2:00 p.m.
DC 08-725	Gamboa, Editha B.	Basa, Esther I.	September 18, 2008	11:00 a.m.
DC 08-721	Hernandez, Mary Jane G.	Benavente, Katherine S.	September 18, 2008	10:00 a.m.
DC 08-736	Zhang, Cuifeng	Cheng Xiang Corporation	September 19, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-746	Fernandez, Fernando P.	Ebilane Corporation	September 19, 2008	2:00 p.m.
DC 08-740	Yu, Xiaomei	Geng Biao Corporation	September 19, 2008	11:00 a.m.
DC 08-739	Han, Meiyu	Hall, Michael E.	September 19, 2008	11:00 a.m.
DC 08-722	Liu, Ziyi	Hui Mao Yu Lickisap	September 18, 2008	11:00 a.m.
DC 08-718	Chung, Yeon Woo	Hwa Sung Construction Co., Inc.	September 18, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-741	Le, Ping	Kangshun Corporation	September 19, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-733	Wu, Chuihong	Limes, Thomas	September 18, 2008	3:00 p.m.
DC 08-747	Cornejo, Nenita D.	Manalo, Mirian M.	September 19, 2008	3:00 p.m.
DC 08-726	Piao, Jizhu	Piao, Ying Ji	September 18, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-745	Garces, Reimell Anne G.	Puyat, Joel H.	September 19, 2008	2:00 p.m.
DC 08-735	Santos, Girlie E.	Quitugua, Jane R.	September 19, 2008	9:00 a.m.
DC 08-720	Baysa, Benietirso C.	RDA Enterprises Inc.	September 18, 2008	10:00 a.m.
DC 08-732	Wu, Tingfa Fa	Rong Hua Co., Ltd.	September 18, 2008	3:00 p.m.
DC 08-744	Jin, Yuhua	Roy Corporation	September 19, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-748	Santos, Norman C.	Saint Trading Co. Inc.	September 19, 2008	3:00 p.m.
DC 08-731	Besid, Donato E.	Sea Lovers Marianas, Inc.	September 18, 2008	2:00 p.m.
DC 08-727	Berdan, Ruben C.	Tenorio, Manuel A.	September 18, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-728	Fullente, Roberto P.	Tenorio, Manuel A.	September 18, 2008	1:00 p.m.
DC 08-738	Zhou, Xinhua	Yong Fu Corporation	September 19, 2008	10:00 a.m.

Northern Mariana Islands
RETIREMENT FUND
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BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS AND REPAIRS

Request For Proposal No. RF09-053

OPENING DATE: **SEPTEMBER 8, 2008**
CLOSING DATE: **OCTOBER 23, 2008**

The Board of Trustees, Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund (Fund), is soliciting sealed proposals from private companies to conduct general maintenance repairs on the Fund building on Capitol Hill, Saipan. To receive the RFP packet, e-mail, fax, or mail your request to:

Mark A. Aguon, Administrator
Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund
P.O. Box 501247 CK
Saipan, MP 96950-1247
Fax: 670/664-8080
E-mail: administrator01@nmiretirement.com

The Board reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in a proposal if doing so is in the best interest of the Fund. All proposals shall become the property of the NMI Retirement Fund.

Sanchez, McKnight lead Trojans past Buckeyes, 35-3

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Southern California turned the game of the year into another Trojans' victory march.

Mark Sanchez threw four touchdown passes, Joe McKnight rushed for 105 yards on 12 carries, and the top-ranked Trojans crushed No. 5 Ohio State 35-3 Saturday night in a matchup of two of college football's most successful programs.

On this pleasant summer night, one looked like a champion, the other ordinary.

"It worked out beautifully for us," USC coach Pete Carroll said. "Over the years, when we prepare this well and we have our guys, we're hard to beat. It doesn't matter who we play when we do that. This is what we're capable of doing, we didn't do anything out of the ordinary to get there. We had a nice night."

Ohio State played without star tailback Chris "Beanie" Wells, sidelined with an injured right foot. But moving the ball wasn't the Buckeyes' biggest problem before the Trojans made it a rout. Instead, they were done in by a handful of crucial mistakes.

A holding penalty nullified a touchdown in the second quarter, and an errant throw by Todd Boeckman was intercepted and returned for a touchdown by Rey Maualuga.

And with that, the outcome was all but decided by halftime.

"We played as well as we could, with or without Beanie," Ohio State coach Jim Tressel said. "We played against a great team tonight. We were never able to take control on offense or defense. We must now roll up our sleeves and realize we can't play like this and win."

By the time it was over, the only question left was: Can anybody left on USC's schedule beat these Trojans (2-0) and keep them from playing for a national championship in January for the fourth time this decade?

"If we can keep this momentum going and we can keep our playmakers showing up, we're going to be really tough," said Carroll, who led USC to national titles in 2003 and '04. "This game is a nice win, but it doesn't mean more than another game. Our players understand that. I think that's why they prepare properly."

AP

Southern California quarterback Mark Sanchez, center, jumps into the stands to celebrate with fans after their 35-3 win over Ohio State in an NCAA college football game in Los Angeles, Calif., Saturday, Sept. 13, 2008.

And that's what makes the Trojans so scary good.

Ohio State (2-1), a decisive loser in the last two national championship games, probably won't have to worry about another BCS title game failure. Getting there for a third straight year after this beating will be a long shot, no matter how well the Buckeyes do in the Big Ten.

Ohio State had the ball for more than 20 minutes in the first half and gained 177 yards to USC's 172, but left the field trailing 21-3. Sanchez threw two touchdown passes to Damian Williams in the third quarter to put the Buckeyes away.

Once they fell behind, the Buckeyes were helpless against Maualuga and the swarming Trojans. Ohio State gained only 30 yards in the second half.

At one point late in the third quarter, the right-handed Boeckman tried a desperation left-handed pass as he was being tackled by Kyle Moore. The result was an intentional grounding penalty. Everson Griffen sacked Boeckman on the next play.

The Trojans won for the 39th time in their last 40 home games before a partisan crowd of 93,607 at the Los Angeles Coliseum. In the first game between the storied programs since 1990, USC won its sixth straight against Ohio State and eighth in a row against the Big Ten.

Sanchez finished 17-for-28 for 172 yards with one interception in three-plus quarters of work.

McKnight carried only five times for 22 yards in the second half, spending most of his time on the sideline with a migraine. But he wasn't needed.

"He's so explosive," Sanchez said of McKnight. "When he's got time, when he's got a little space, anything can happen."

Boeckman completed 14 of 21 passes for 84 yards with two interceptions. Freshman Terrelle Pryor, who split time at quarterback, provided some spark and had to leave some Buckeyes fans wondering if their quarterback of the future may soon be Ohio State's starter.

"We were a little surprised that he played that much," USC linebacker Brian Cushing said. "He's going to be real good."

The highly touted Pryor went 7-of-9 for 52 yard and also gained 40 yards on 11 carries. Dan Herron, filling in for Wells, led the Buckeyes in rushing with 51 yards on 11 carries.

USC sacked Boeckman four times and Pryor once.

"Tough team, and we did not execute very well at all," Pryor said. "We did not pick up their blitzes very well. Tonight, we beat ourselves. I still feel like we have the best defense in the country."

The Buckeyes certainly missed Wells, who ran for over 1,600 yards last season. It's doubtful even the he would have made that much of a difference.

Ryan Pretorius kicked a 29-yard field goal on Ohio State's second possession, capping a 69-yard, 17-play drive that ate up nearly 8 1/2 minutes. But keeping the Buckeyes out of the end zone only seemed to get the Trojans riled up.

USC moved 74 yards on seven plays, scoring on a 35-yard pass from Sanchez to fullback Stanley Havili for a 7-3 lead.

After the Buckeyes went three-and-out, Sanchez threw a 1-yard touchdown pass to freshman Blake Ayles. McKnight provided the big play with a 24-yard run.

Ohio State moved deep into USC territory on its next possession, but the Buckeyes stopped themselves by committing two holding penalties—the first nullifying a gain to the USC 3, the second a touchdown pass by Boeckman. Pretorius then missed a 46-yard field goal.

"Had we got it to 14-10, it would not have ended up 35-3," Tressel said. "I don't know what would have happened."

The Trojans made it 21-3 with 2:49 left before halftime when Maualuga stepped in front Brian Hartline for his fourth career interception and returned 48 yards for his first touchdown.

"I turned around, saw the ball, took it," Maualuga said. "I was hoping the receiver wouldn't catch me. It looked like I was Marcus Allen, with my Heisman skills and 4.2 speed."

Sanchez threw a 34-yard scoring pass to Williams with 6:02 left in the third quarter and a 17-yarder 4 1/2 minutes later. The rest was garbage time.

And Ohio State went home with yet another humbling loss on a big stage.

Marquez floors Casamayor in big lightweight debut

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Juan Manuel Marquez needed about three rounds to get comfortable as a lightweight. After that, he was nothing but bad news for Joel Casamayor.

Marquez won his 135-pound debut Saturday night, stopping linear champion Casamayor for the first time in the Cuban's career with a dynamic flurry late in the 11th round.

Marquez (49-4-1, 36 KOs) held title belts in two lighter divisions over the last five years, but moved up to lightweight in hopes of landing a third bout with Manny Pacquiao after going 0-1-1 against the pound-for-pound king.

The Mexican veteran proved those extra five pounds are nothing but punching power in a comprehensive win over Casamayor (36-4-1), the 37-year-old Cuban Olympic champion and defector who has unofficially ruled a talent-stacked division since beating Diego Corrales two years ago.

Marquez might be heavier now, but he's still light enough to leap onto the ropes to celebrate another big win.

"I figured this would be a tough fight until the end, but I was a more intelligent fighter," Marquez said. "I was watching out for myself, and I knew how to neutralize his left hand. I threw all my combinations, because I knew I couldn't win with just my right hand."

Marquez was tentative in the first three rounds, allowing Casamayor to take charge. When Marquez finally got aggressive, Casamayor wasn't able to keep up.

Marquez left nothing to the scorecards in the final minute of the 11th when he floored Casamayor with a right hand that spun the Cuban's chin. Marquez then showed impeccable finishing skills, landing several big blows before a glassy-eyed Casamayor went down for good on consecutive right hands with about 7 seconds left.

"I fought as a champion, but Marquez was the best this night," Casamayor said. "I deserve a rematch. Marquez knew how to control my punches. I had a bad night. I'm very emotional right now, but I honestly need the rematch."

Marquez probably has bigger goals to chase. He's among boxing's top talents, but the 34-year-old is running out of time to join the sport's elite stars—and he was surpassed in the hearts of many Mexican fans by welterweight Antonio Margarito, who stopped Miguel Cotto in July to become the boxing-mad nation's highest-profile champion.

This TKO should be a big step in getting Marquez back to the top, particularly if a certain Filipino phenomenon happened to be watching. Pacquiao, who made his own lightweight debut in June, is expected to move back to 135 pounds after his big-money welterweight bout against Oscar De La Hoya, Marquez's promoter.

"We moved up in weight, and we will fight anyone that our promoter wants," Marquez said. "He was the best lightweight in the world, and he has strong counterpunches."

Casamayor holds none of the major title belts, but has beaten both the late Corrales and Nate Campbell, who holds the other three 135-pound title belts after upsetting Juan Diaz last March. Casamayor appeared to be on his career's downslope in recent fights, winning a questionable decision over Jose Armando Santa Cruz and struggling in a win over Michael Katsidis last spring.

He still presented all kinds of awkwardness for Marquez. Few fighters have ever looked good against Casamayor's array of head butts, elbow blows and general left-handedness—but Marquez managed to shine.

The punch stats were fairly even, with Marquez landing higher percentages in total punches and power punches to counter Casamayor's higher overall total. The fight was tight on the judges' scorecards, with two judges seeing the fight even after 10 rounds, while Glenn Feldman favored Marquez 97-93.

Marquez began with extreme caution, showing none of the cavalier showmanship of his two lively fights with Pacquiao. Casamayor was happy to pick away with left-handed shots while controlling the first three rounds.

But Marquez opened a cut above Casamayor's right eye in the fourth round, apparently from an accidental clash of heads. Marquez turned the physical tide with a persistent jab and a higher work rate, limiting Casamayor to mostly single punches that did no damage.

Mexican fans dominated the MGM Grand crowd, booing Casamayor heartily - but Casamayor has loved being the villain since winning his gold medal at the Barcelona Games 16 years ago. The heavily bearded Cuban entered the ring in a Mexican sombrero and pitch-black trunks.

Angels' K-Rod sets MLB mark with his 58th save

ANAHEIM, California (AP)—Francisco Rodriguez set the major league record with his 58th save this season, closing out the Los Angeles Angels' 5-2 win over Seattle on Saturday.

Two days earlier, Rodriguez tied the mark of 57 set by Bobby Thigpen with the Chicago White Sox in 1990. The Angels' right-hander also posted a save on Wednesday to help the Angels clinch the American League West title.

With fans on their feet, Rodriguez struck out Raul Ibanez swinging with two on for the final out. K-Rod immediately lifted his arms and looked skyward in his traditional salute to his late grandfather, then sank to his knees.

Jon Garland (14-8) went six innings, giving up two runs in the first, then blanking the Mariners over the next five. Darren Oliver pitched the seventh and Scot Shields the eighth to set the stage for Rodriguez.

Blue Jays 8, Red Sox 1, 1st game
Red Sox 7, Blue Jays 5, 2nd game

At Boston, Jacoby Ellsbury drove in the go-ahead run on a 30-foot single when pitcher Scott Downs fell going after the ball and Boston rallied to split their day-night doubleheader with Toronto.

Toronto won the opener 8-1 and led 5-2 in the nightcap with five runs in the second inning. Then Boston chipped away with a run in the sixth and another in the seventh before going ahead with three in the eighth.

Justin Masterson (6-4) got the win and Jonathan Papelbon pitched the ninth for his 37th save in 42 opportunities. Downs (0-3) allowed all three runs in the eighth.

In the opener, late-season call up Travis Snider homered, doubled and drove in five runs. A.J. Burnett (18-10) held Boston to one unearned run on three singles in six-plus innings.

Leading 2-0 in the fifth, Snider homered into the Blue Jays bullpen off Paul Byrd (11-12). Snider hit his second homer after Rod Barajas and Scott Rolen singled.

Rays 7, Yankees 1, 1st game
Yankees 6, Rays 5, 2nd game

At New York, Xavier Nady hit a tiebreaking single in the seventh inning and New York rallied to beat Tampa Bay and salvage a split of the day-night doubleheader.

James Shields (13-8) got the AL East-leading Rays off to a fast start in the opener, tossing eight shutout innings in a 7-1 victory.

Mike Mussina (17-9) threw five shaky innings and first baseman Jason Giambi committed an unseemly error that led to another run.

In the second game, four New York relievers combined to throw 5 2-3 innings after Sidney Ponson struggled in the makeup of Friday night's rainout. Damaso Marte (1-3) pitched a scoreless seventh, Joba Chamberlain worked the eighth and Mariano Rivera got three outs for his 34th save in 35 opportunities.

The Rays wound up the day with a two-game division edge over Boston, which split a doubleheader with Toronto.

Twins 12, Orioles 2, 1st game
Twins 12, Orioles 6, 2nd game

At Baltimore, Justin Morneau and Carlos Gomez drove in two runs each during a six-run first inning and Minnesota moved into a first-place tie in the AL Central by completing a doubleheader sweep of Baltimore.

In the nightcap, Minnesota picked up where it left off following a rout in the opener. The Twins knocked Orioles starter Garrett Olson (9-8) out after 2-3 of an inning and 27 pitches.

Bobby Korecky (2-0) picked up the victory with 2 1-3 innings of scoreless relief.

In the opener, Gomez had a career-high four RBIs and Denard Span homered twice and drove in four runs. Scott Baker (9-4) walked three, struck out four and allowed only one hit over his final five innings.

Orioles starter Daniel Cabrera (8-10) allowed four runs and seven hits in 5 1-3 innings.¤

Royals 8, Indians 3, 1st game
Royals 8, Indians 4, 2nd game

At Cleveland, Mark Teahen hit two home runs in the second game to lead Kansas City to a win over Cleveland and a doubleheader sweep.

Ryan Shealy homered and had a career-high four hits in the nightcap after Teahen had three hits in an 8-3 win in the first game. Zack Greinke (11-10) pitched six solid innings to help Kansas City beat Cleveland in the first game.

Greinke beat Fausto Carmona (8-7), who lost his second straight start after a three-game winning streak. The right-hander allowed seven runs and 11 hits over 6 1-3 innings.

In Game 2, Robinson Tejada (2-2) gave up one run and two hits over five innings in his first start after 23 relief appearances for the Royals, who claimed him on waivers from Texas on June 24.

Athletics 7, Rangers 1

At Oakland, California, Jack Cust homered and Bobby Crosby hit a three-run double, helping Josh Outman earn his first major league victory as Oakland beat Texas.

Outman (1-0) allowed one run and four hits over five innings in his first big league start. The rookie lefty had made two appearances out of the bullpen since being called up from the minor leagues this month.

Huston Street, Jerry Blevins, Joey Devine and Brad Ziegler combined for four shutout innings.

Aaron Cunningham hit a two-run single off Scott Feldman (5-7) and Crosby greeted reliever Luis Mendoza with a bases-loaded double to right-center to make it 7-1. Feldman has just one win in his last eight starts.

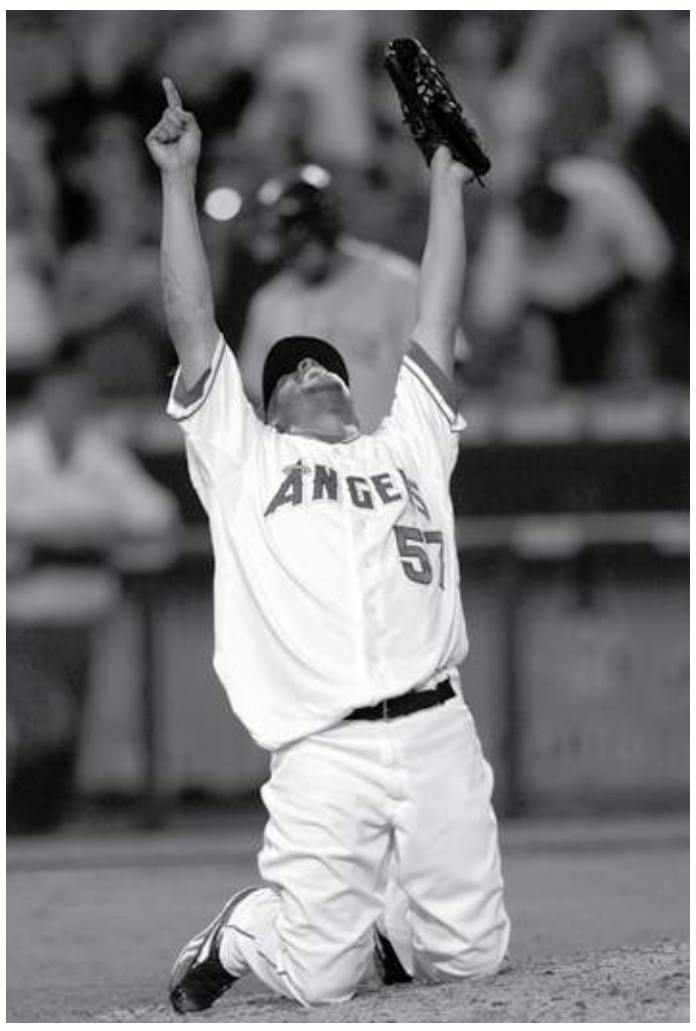
Phillies 7, Brewers 3

At Philadelphia, Cole Hamels pitched 6 1-3 sharp innings, Jimmy Rollins homered and the Philadelphia Phillies beat the Milwaukee Brewers to move within two games of the National League wild-card leaders.

The Phillies can tie Milwaukee for the top spot by sweeping a day-night doubleheader on Sunday. Philadelphia entered the day three games behind the NL East-leading New York Mets, who played a doubleheader against the Atlanta Braves.

Hamels (13-9) allowed two runs and six hits, rebounding from a poor outing at Shea Stadium last Sunday. Hamels had a chance to put the Phillies in a tie with the Mets, but gave up five runs in a 6-3 loss.

Struggling Milwaukee has lost nine of 12, including two straight in Philadelphia.



AP

Los Angeles Angels' Francisco Rodriguez points skyward after striking out Mariners' Raul Ibanez in the ninth inning of a baseball game to notch his 58th save, a new major league record, in Anaheim, Calif. on Saturday, Sept. 13, 2008.

Braves 3, Mets 2, 1st game
Mets 5, Braves 0, 2nd game

At New York, Jonathon Niese pitched eight poised innings in his second major league start, David Wright hit the first of three Mets homers and New York beat the Atlanta for a doubleheader split.

In the first game, Jeff Francoeur hit a tying single in the eighth inning and Atlanta rallied against Johan Santana and the Mets' bullpen, beating New York for its first one-run road win in more than a year.

Atlanta had lost 22 one-run games in a row this season and 29 overall—the longest streak of its kind in major league history, according to the Elias Sports Bureau.

In the nightcap, Niese (1-0) allowed six hits and struck out seven after getting roughed up in his debut Sept. 2 at Milwaukee. Jo-Jo Reyes (3-11) gave up four runs and five hits in two innings for the loss.

Jeff Ridgway (1-0) worked a scoreless seventh to win his first career decision in the opener.

Nationals 4, Marlins 2

At Miami, Hanley Ramirez and Jorge Cantu homered to help Florida beat the Washington and the Marlins became the second major league team to have three infielders with 30 homers.

With Ramirez's two-run shot off Washington starter Tim Redding (10-9) in the second inning, the Marlins shortstop also became the second Florida player with 30 home runs and 30 stolen bases in a single season, joining Preston Wilson.

First baseman Mike Jacobs has 32 home runs and second baseman Dan Uggla has 30 for Florida this season. The Marlins join the 2001 Oakland Athletics, who reached the mark with first baseman Jason Giambi (38), third baseman Eric Chavez (32) and shortstop Miguel Tejada (31).

Dodgers 5, Rockies 1

At Denver, Clayton Kershaw (4-5) allowed just four singles in six crisp innings and Los Angeles beat Colorado for its 12th win in 13 games.

The Rockies have lost seven straight, a turnaround from last September, when they went on a 14-1 tear to reach the NL playoffs, victimizing Los Angeles seven times in that memorable streak.

The Dodgers scored three times in the fourth off Jorge De La Rosa (8-8) to take a 4-1 lead. Angel Berroa doubled home a run, Russell Martin had an RBI single and Juan Pierre added a sacrifice fly.

Pirates 7, Cardinals 6, 12 innings

At Pittsburgh, Brandon Moss doubled with two outs in the 12th inning to score Adam LaRoche, and Pittsburgh rallied from a four-run deficit to beat St. Louis.

Chris Perez (3-3) retired the first two batters before walking LaRoche and allowing the hit to Moss.

Ryan Doumit had two hits and three RBIs, Nyjer Morgan had three hits and two runs, and LaRoche added two RBIs for the Pirates, who beat the Cardinals for the second straight night.

Craig Hansen (1-3), the eighth Pirates pitcher, tossed a scoreless inning to pick up the win.

Felipe Lopez homered for St. Louis, which has lost four in a row.

Reds 3, Diamondbacks 2

At Phoenix, former Diamondback Micah Owings doubled in the deciding run in the 10th inning to give Cincinnati a come-from-behind victory over fading Arizona.

The loss, coupled with Los Angeles' 5-1 victory in Colorado, left the Diamondbacks 4½ behind the first-place Dodgers in the NL West with 15 games to play.

Owings, arguably the best hitting pitcher in baseball, was sent to the Reds as the "player to be named" in the deal that brought Adam Dunn to Arizona. He came up as a pinch hitter with two outs in the 10th and lined one down the left field line, bringing home Chris Dickerson from first.

David Weathers (3-6) picked up the win and Francisco Cordero got his 30th save.¤

Giants 7, Padres 0

At San Diego, Tim Lincecum pitched a four-hitter for his first career shutout and San Francisco beat San Diego.

Lincecum (17-3) hadn't thrown a complete game in his first 54 starts, but sailed through nine innings against the Padres, throwing a career-high 138 pitches. He held the Padres to four singles and struck out 12 to win his sixth straight decision.

The right-hander leads the majors with 237 strikeouts. He lowered his NL-best ERA to 2.43.

Bengie Molina gave Lincecum all the runs he needed with a two-run homer off Chris Young (5-6) in the first inning. Molina also had an RBI single in the ninth, when San Francisco added three runs.

Hurricane Ike postpones Ravens-Texans until Nov. 9

HOUSTON (AP)—The Baltimore Ravens-Houston Texans game was rescheduled to Nov. 9 after Reliant Stadium was severely damaged by Hurricane Ike. The Texans' home opener was originally scheduled for Sunday, then postponed to Monday night as Ike approached the Gulf Coast.

The Category 2 storm slammed into Texas on Friday night and moved into Houston early Saturday morning.

Ike tore chunks off the stadium's retractable roof and the damage couldn't be fixed in time for the game, said Shea Guinn, the president and general manager of Reliant Park.

"There are parts of the roof that are completely gone," Guinn said.

The retractable roof on the $352 million venue rolls open in nine sections. Guinn said five of the sections were missing and large pieces of debris had fallen into the stadium.

"It's hard to tell what came from where," Guinn said.

The Texans said alternate sites for Monday night were considered, but logistics made them impossible.

The new date also affects the Cincinnati Bengals' schedule.

Houston was originally scheduled to play the Bengals on Nov. 9. Now, those teams will play on Oct. 26 and Cincinnati will take its bye week on Nov. 9, when the Texans now play the Ravens.

Baltimore had an open date on Nov. 9 on its original schedule.

Ravens coach John Harbaugh canceled Saturday's scheduled practice and will give players Sunday, Monday and Tuesday off. Baltimore plays Cleveland on Sept. 21.

"We will adjust. Our focus now turns to preparing for the Browns," Harbaugh said. "Without a bye, we believe we need to give the players the next few days off. We'll have a Cleveland game plan ready for them when they come in on Wednesday."

The Texans aren't scheduled to play at home again until Oct. 5, but Guinn said he wasn't sure when repairs could be completed. He said the stadium also sustained some water damage at street level.

Reliant Stadium sits next to the Astrodome. Guinn said Saturday afternoon that he had not yet inspected the dome for storm damage. The Texans' air-supported practice "bubble" across the street was deflated Thursday and was not damaged, Guinn said.

Three years ago, when the New Orleans Saints were displaced because of Hurricane Katrina, they played four of their scheduled home games at LSU's Tiger Stadium, three in San Antonio and one in East Rutherford, N.J., against the New York Giants.

Registration deadline extended for SAPTember Youth Volleyball

Organizers have extended the deadline of registration for the SAPTember Youth Volleyball Tournament up to Wednesday, Sept. 17.

Becky Covarrubias, CNMI Tobacco Quit Line coordinator of the Community Guidance Center Prevention Office, also announced yesterday that there would be a meeting of coaches on that day at the Gilbert Ada Gym.

The deadline of submission of entries was originally set Friday, Sept. 12.

The tournament is part of the observance of the Substance Abuse Prevention and Recovery Month.

The actual two-day competition will be from Sept. 20-21, 8am to 6pm at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

There are four divisions—the boys' 18 years and under and 14 years and under and the girls' 18 years and under and 14 years and under.

Ground rules stated that registration will not be complete until the team has submitted a competed registration form for each team and a complete waiver form for each player.

For more details, please contact Becky at 323-7848 or fax 323-6587 or email alesia_mexi@hotmail.com.

The tournament is geared toward a healthier and drug-free CNMI. ***(Nazario Rodriguez Jr.)***

Guard-rich teams worry Kings coach

By MUSONG R. CASTILLO
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—With the way teams have been stacking up their rosters in this short off-season, Barangay Ginebra coach Jong Uichico feels that the advantage his team had is now a thing of the past.

A number of squads have beefed up their guard rotations, with Rain Or Shine and Talk 'N Text now also "guard-heavy" and becoming potential headaches for Gin Kings Jay-Jay Helterbrand and Mark Caguioa.

"I feel that we have lost whatever advantage we had in the previous seasons," Uichico told the Inquirer in an overseas interview while vacationing in Hong Kong.

"The other teams have stacked up, not only in their guard rotations, but in the other aspects of their line-ups as well," he added. "Definitely, we will not be favorites when the tournament (Philippine Cup) comes."

Ginebra will start camp only on Sept. 22, less than two weeks before the 34th Season comes off the wraps on Oct. 4.

Rain or Shine and Talk 'N Text now have formidable backcourts with Gabe Norwood and Solomon Mercado signing up for the Elastopainters and Jared Dillinger and Jason Castro joining the Phone Pals.

Norwood, picked first overall in the Draft, is a 6-foot-5 point guard, while Mercado is a steady off-guard who is also expected to make an immediate impact in the tournament.

"We're still there, we still have one of the best backcourts in the PBA," Uichico, whose Kings won the Fiesta Cup over Air21 less than a month ago, said. "But right now, I guess it's safe to say that we're not alone." ***(PDI)***

JR.

From Page 28

for these three kids," he said.

The CNMI netters have until Oct. 3 to accept the invitation, as the scheduled flight to Auckland is in the first week of December.

Joy Minor, who with his husband Boyet coaches Thea, said they will allow their daughter to compete in New Zealand for the second straight year.

"When it comes to tennis and also her academics, Thea has our support. She works hard for these tournaments and we always want her to take the opportunities which come her way," the older Minor said.

Race said the 13-year-old Minor will be competing in a higher age group in New Zealand this time and she hopes the CNMI junior netter will perform well, too in her second trip there.

"For Raffy and Christian, it will be the toughest competition they have ever faced. Their goal will be to not let themselves be intimidated by the competition and get everything they can out of the experience. Success there would be gravy, but as they train regularly, with Ji Hoon, Nicolas Son, and players of this caliber, they aren't easily intimidated," he added.

The CNMI junior netters' first tournament will be the Waikato event, which will run from Dec. 7 to 13 and will be followed by the Poverty Bay Tournament (Dec. 14-17).

The tournament in Auckland, which will be the Commonwealth bets' last, is set from Dec. 18 to 22.

SUBLEMENTE

From Page 28

This was about seven minutes faster than the projected average time of one hour and five minutes earlier given by the NMITF, which promised to conduct another race due because of its success.

Sublemente, who was reunited with his four-year-old daughter Aliana and wife Ritchel at the finish line, said he and Villafria started with a slow pace and waited for the right moment to make their move en route to winning the first-of-a-kind race.

"But this was really just for fun. We kind of warmed up first then went all the way after the turn," he said.

Sublemente and Villafria are members of the Saipan Cyclers, a few members of whom failed to join the race after coming a few minutes before the start.

Sublemente and Villafria called their team Coco-Thai since the latter works at Thai Massage while the former is a staff at Coco Restaurant. For their effort, they won free dental check-up and treatment.

"Your performance here depends on who is your partner. Both of us are prepared for this," said Sublemente.

The event was called Leapfrog because it was a two-person team using one bicycle, each alternating the bike and run leg portion of the race. Everyone starts the race at the same time.

From the starting point, one teammate rides ahead and leaves the bike at a designated exchange point and begins running.

One runs to the bike and then rides past or "leapfrogs" his or her partner and drops the bike at the next exchange point.

The process was repeated and the team that completed the course, in this case Sublemente and Villafria, won the race.

A total of 19 teams (38 participants) and 20 volunteers joined the race, including Maui XTERRA World Championship-bound Mieko Carey and husband Kevin Carey, who finished two minutes behind the champions with identical 49.01s to settle for second place.

Mieko said it was a good preparation for next week's XTERRA Championship in Maui.

"It's a different race and we had fun," she said.

Yoshio Gabaldon and Russ Quinn came third with times of 47:45 and 49:41.

Jack Kabriel teamed-up with Fred Camacho, one of the oldest competitor at 58 and who is also NMITF board member, and they finished fourth with 50:48 and 50:24.

Camacho said there is a big possibility that another race with a different format will be held soon.

"We're very happy because of the big turnout, which is far more than we expected. This is a good workout and it's fun. Everybody has enjoyed it. We have good support from our sponsors," he said.

Florence Antonio and Rene Calaje clocked in at 51:36 and 52:17 for fifth; Lewis Tenorio (50:51) and Florian Brag (53:26) sixth; Alabert Cataina (52:17) and Ceasar Fortaleza (55:11) seventh.

Tournament organizer Joshua Berger arrived in 55:56 with the last run portion of the race. His wife, Mamiko Berger, came in with the bike at 54:28 as they finished eighth.

Joshua Berger said they had a wonderful time plus the good weather and that it was the first time that they had more than 20 participants.

Heather Kennedy and Kanae Quinn were ninth with 54:16 and 56:16, while Matthew Mancao and Federico Fernandez settled for 10th place, clocking in at 54:29 and 56:33.

Rounding out the standings are the following: 11th Laura Sherry (59:11) and Eli Torgeson (59:11); 12th Steve Nutting (1:00.07) and Andy Nutting (1:00:07), the youngest who joined the race at 14; 13th Angie Mister (1:00:26) and Tyce Mister (1:00:26); 14th Ken Pierson (1:01:36) and Crystal Pierson (1:01:39); 15th Antonee Aguilar (1:04:09) and Jonar Sembrano (1:04:42); 16th Alexander Racoma (1:03:53) and Jodel Fernandez (1:04:56); 17th Tina Goodwin (1:05.33) and Melanie Daly (1:06:06); 18th Stan Good (1:09:26) and Shogo Ando (1:09:26); and 19th Monica Yamaguchi (1:07:24) and Izumi Yamaguchi (1:09:45).

Jodel Fernandez was the youngest to join the race at 14 years old, while Good was the oldest at 60.

Major sponsors include Pacific Islands Club, BankPacific, Dr. Irma Halaby, Hardt Eye Clinic, Dr. Edgar Tudor, Romy's Bike Shop, SaipanCell Communications, Marianas Eye Institute, and the Law Offices of Eric Smith.

TINIAN

From Page 28

with Tinian leading by a bigger margin, 58-35.

Tinian continued to enjoy a comfortable advantage in the third period as all of its five players on the court hit their marks.

Entering the final canto, Tinian was ahead, 75-51, and James Villacrusis' one-man show was not enough to bring the Express back into the game and steal the win.

Villacrusis led all scorers with 28 points, nailing 13 of them in the final quarter.

J.R. Reyes finished with 27 points, while Ringo added 23, Manglona and Santos chipped in 19 and 15 markers, respectively, while Borja contributed 12.

In the second game, Corrections and the Legislature played the remaining eight minutes, 37 seconds of their power outage-suspended match.

The Corrections-Legislature tiff resumed with the game tied at 69-all and ended with the former on top, 100-84.

Thanks to Luis Iguel and Jeffrey Quitugua, who did not play in the suspended match Thursday night, but showed up for the continuation of the game.

Iguel and Qutugua combined for 24 of DOC's 31 points in the last eight minutes of the fourth period.

With the win, Corrections still has a chance to make it to the finals. Its next assignment will be the loser of the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs and PTI game tonight.

Tinian will duel Autonomous tomorrow with the loser joining the Lawmakers and Express in the showers.

First Game

Tinian 101 – J. Reyes 27, R. Reyes 23, Manglona 19, Santos 15, Borja 12.

Bank of Guam 90 – Villacrusis 28, Peters 20, Pelisamen 14, Taisacan 11, D. Palacios6, G. Palacios 4, Imperial 2, Phillip , Seman 2.

Scoring by quarters: 29-17, 58-35, 75-51, 101-90.

Second Game

Corrections 100 – Blas 21, Mendez 17, Iguel 13, Quitugua 11, Mendiola 10, Itibus 9, Castro 4, Killion 3, Sims 3.

Legislatures 84 – R. Duenas 29, E. Duenas 27, Deleon Guerrero 16, Punzalan10.

Scoring by quarters: 17-20, 47-40, 69-63, 100-84.

Referees: Arnold Mesa and Gilbert Espinosa.

SIXERS

From Page 28

The Rollers I had more trips from the 15-foot line than the Sixers, but drilled only five to absorb their first loss in three games.

The Sixers remain the only other unbeaten team in the league with their 3-0 record.

The win gave the Sixers the solo second spot behind league-leading Southern Sonics, who hold a 5-0 mark.

Ernest Duenas paced the Sixers with 17 points, making consistent contribution throughout game. He had seven markers in the first half and added eight in the second.

Joe Ada nailed all his 10 points in the first half to give San Antonio a 27-26 halftime lead. Ada went cold in the second half, as he committed several errors and muffed layups.

But Matt Duenas and Novo Pepito were there to provide support to Ernest in the second half and secure the win for the Sixers.

Manny Matagolai led the Rollers I's losing cause, firing 15 points, but he had only four points in the second half and they came when the game was already decided.

Jomar Danas and Don Teregeyo chipped in 12 and 11 markers, respectively.

Sixers 61 – E. Duenas 17, M. Duenas 10, Ada 10, Benavente 8, Agtarap 6, Pepito 6, Flores 2, Salas 2

Rollers I 54 – Matagolai 13, Danas 12, Teregeyo 11, Castro 6, Deleon Guerrero 4, Paez 3, Concepcion 2, Ogarto 2, Camacho 1.

Scoring by quarters: 27-26, 61-54.

Referees: Gabriel White and Arnold Mesa.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	88	58	.603	–
Boston	87	61	.588	2
Toronto	80	69	.537	9 1/2
New York	78	70	.527	11
Baltimore	65	82	.442	23 1/2

Central Division

Chicago	81	65	.555	–
Minnesota	82	66	.554	–
Cleveland	72	76	.486	10
Detroit	70	76	.479	11
Kansas City	64	84	.432	18

West Division

Los Angeles	91	57	.615	–
Texas	73	76	.490	18 1/2
Oakland	68	80	.459	23
Seattle	57	90	.388	33 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

New York	83	64	.565	–
Philadelphia	81	67	.547	2 1/2
Florida	76	72	.514	7 1/2
Atlanta	66	83	.443	18
Washington	56	92	.378	27 1/2

Central Division

Chicago	88	58	.603	–
Milwaukee	83	65	.561	6
Houston	80	67	.544	8 1/2
St. Louis	78	70	.527	11
Cincinnati	67	81	.453	22
Pittsburgh	62	86	.419	27

West Division

Los Angeles	77	71	.520	–
Arizona	72	75	.490	4 1/2
San Francisco	67	81	.453	10
Colorado	67	82	.450	10 1/2
San Diego	57	92	.383	20 1/2

Yesterday's Games

Toronto 8, Boston 1, 1st game
Boston 7, Toronto 5, 2nd game
Tampa Bay 7, N.Y. Yankees 1, 1st game
N.Y. Yankees 6, Tampa Bay 5, 2nd game
Kansas City 8, Cleveland 3, 1st game
Kansas City 8, Cleveland 4, 2nd game
Detroit at Chicago White Sox, ppd., rain 1st game
Detroit at Chicago White Sox, ppd., rain 2nd game
Oakland 7, Texas 1
Minnesota 12, Baltimore 2, 1st game
Minnesota 12, Baltimore 6, 2nd game
L.A. Angels 5, Seattle 2
Pittsburgh 10, St. Louis 2
Milwaukee at Philadelphia, ppd., rain
Atlanta at N.Y. Mets, ppd., rain
Florida 2, Washington 1
Chicago Cubs at Houston, ppd., hurricane
L.A. Dodgers 7, Colorado 2
Arizona 3, Cincinnati 2
San Francisco 5, San Diego 2
Atlanta 3, N.Y. Mets 2, 1st game
N.Y. Mets 5, Atlanta 0, 2nd game
Philadelphia 7, Milwaukee 3
Chicago Cubs at Houston, ppd., hurricane
Pittsburgh 7, St. Louis 6, 12 innings
Florida 4, Washington 2
L.A. Dodgers 5, Colorado 1
Cincinnati 3, Arizona 2, 10 innings
San Francisco 7, San Diego 0

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

Rotary Standings

Southern Sonics	5	0
CNMI Jr. Nationals	3	1
San Antonio Sixers	3	0
G-Rollers I	2	1
Kontenders	2	2
G-Stars	2	2
C.K. Saints	0	3
Suns	0	3
G-Rollers II	0	5

The Week in Sports

Good news, bad news in local sports

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Most of the games in local sporting events last week went ahead as scheduled with the power outages lasting only for a few hours a day, at least at the venues of the various tournaments.

But the improved condition of the power crisis on the island was not last week's scene stealer—the CNMI skipping the 2009 South Pacific Mini Games in the Cook Islands was.

Michael White, president of the Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association, during the NMASA monthly meeting announced that the Commonwealth will not be sending athletes to the quadrennial meet.

NMASA failed to get commitments from golf, athletics, and sailing associations which earlier signified their interests to join the regional event in Rarotonga.

Sailing's Tony Stearns said he and wife Janet McCullough would not be able to make it to next year's Mini Games due to business and family commitments.

Athletics is skipping the Games for cost-cutting measures, while golf has yet to inform NMASA about their interest to compete in the Cook Islands.

Back to the local scene, the PTI caging, which has been affected by the rolling power outages, named the league's scoring champion in the regular season.

Department of Public Works/Procurement & Supply's Edgar Pangelinan bested 14 others in the scoring champion race.

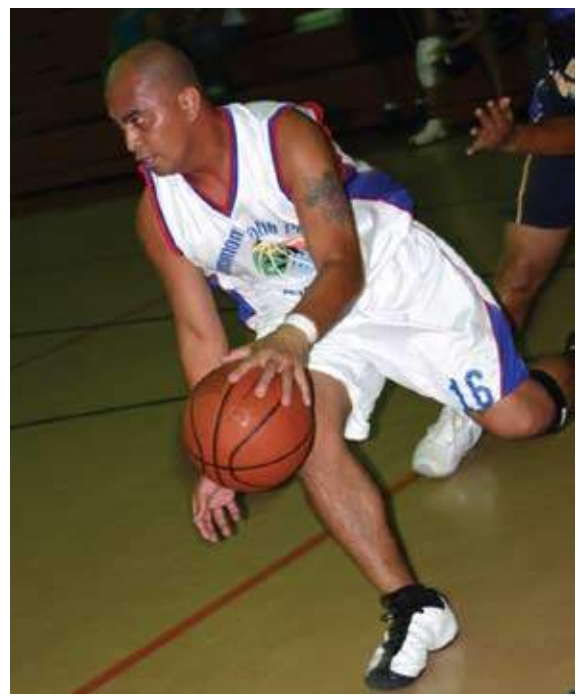
Pangelinan collected 265 points in seven games in the regular season to average 37.9 points per match. The DPW/P&S hotshot fired 50 points twice and had the most triples of the season, hitting 11 treys in their 81-100 loss to Autonomous.

DPW did not make it to the playoff round, which started last week and the post season is on schedule as only the match between Corrections and the Legislature was suspended.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE
The CNMI delegation during the opening parade of teams in the 2005 South Pacific Mini Games in Palau.

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
An SDA player goes for a block during their game against SIS in the private school volleyball league.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
NMC's Jose Tumaquip, right, drives against Autonomous' Chris Camacho during the playoff game in the PTI caging last week.



MARK RABAGO
PTI scoring champion Edgar Pangelinan of DPW/P&S during his CPA playing days.

The opening of the 2008 Coalition of Private Schools Volleyball League Monday afternoon was cancelled not by a power outage, but due to rain.

But still the league opened its 2008 season in the same week with middle school defending champion Seventh Day Adventists surviving Saipan International School Blue.

SDA won in three hard-fought sets, 25-20, 30-28, 15-13.

In swimming, Kai Staal began the fall season with an impressive performance in the Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan time trial.

Staal timed in at 26.67 seconds in the 50m freestyle swim to move closer to making it to the national reportable times (T16). His time received an AAAA ranking in the U.S. standard time. The Four As is the highest in the National Age Group Time progressions and is equivalent to 97 percent of the Top 16 National Reportable Times.

NRT or T16 represents a level that a swimmer must surpass to submit his name for consideration in the annual Top 16 list. The annual rankings are published in the *Swimming World* magazine and each qualifier receives certification from USA Swimming. Swimmers earning a NRT are in the Top 1 percent of the American Age Group swimmers.

While Staal had a good time in the water, Saipan-based triathlete Manny Sitchon did not as big waves greeted him in Los Angeles.

But Sitchon survived the big waves of Venice Beach to finish the Olympic-distance race in the 2008 Kaiser Permanente Los Angeles Triathlon.

He completed the 1.5-kilometer swim, 40-km bike, and 30-km run races in three hours and 57 seconds.

In bowling, Bicol Express ruled the 6th season of the Philippine Bowling Association Monday Night League.

The winning team is composed of Kitz Barja, Paul Bea, Totie Limpin, Edwin Guzman, and Rey Madrilejos.

The exodus of athletes continues with Marianas Amateur Table Tennis Association bidding goodbye to Con Pobre and Peter De Leon.

De Leon, an architect with E.F. Camacho Engineers and Architects, would be relocating to Seoul, South Korea, for his next job. Pobre, who is the bank manager of PNB Remittance Saipan, would be leaving for his next overseas assignment in the U.S. mainland.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Kai Staal during the practice session for Tsunami Saipan at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Manny Sitchon poses in front of the Staples Center in Los Angeles.

Monday Night League winning team, Bicol Express. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
MATTA players in a group photo before bidding farewell to Peter De Leon, fourth left, and Con Pobre, fifth left.

Good news, bad news in local sports

Most of the games in local sporting events last week went ahead as scheduled with the power outages lasting only for a few hours a day, at least at the venues of the various tournaments.

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Sanchez, McKnight lead Trojans past Buckeyes, 35-3

Southern California turned the game of the year into another Trojans' victory march.

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Jr. netters invited to NZ tourneys

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Jones

Minor

Miller

Thea Minor was invited anew to compete in tournaments in New Zealand and will be joined by fellow CNMI junior netters Christian Miller and Rafael Jones.

The three NMI bets received an invitation to play in New Zealand this December after their impressive performance in the 2008 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships.

Minor, who played in New Zealand last year, and Rafael Jones made it into the semifinals of POJC's 13-and-under division, while Miller finished eighth in the same age group.

The trio will be part of the ITF Pacific Oceania Junior Team, which will compete in the Waikato Tournament, Poverty Bay Tournament, and Auckland Tournament.

Oceania Tennis Association Executive Officer Patrick O'Rourke extended the invitation to the three CNMI netters through CNMI coach Jeff Race.

Race was elated by the invitation, as this time, the CNMI will have three players joining the ITF Pacific squad. Last year, besides Minor, Ji Hoon Heo was also invited to be part of the 18-and-under team which competed in Australia.

"In the past we have had at most one invited to be a part of these teams, but to have three is a great testament to the hard work of these players, the sacrifices and commitment of their families and the success of the overall tennis program here on Saipan," Race said.

He added the tournaments in New Zealand will provide the three junior netters the off-island experience they need to be as competitive as the rest of the players in the region.

"There are so many challenges to developing good athletes, including tennis players, here. Lack of resources, shortage of good quality competition, and physical distance and the expense of getting to anyplace else make an opportunity like this so important

See JR. on Page 26

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
Butch Suplemente runs alongside a bike-riding Ronald Villafria as the two rejoices after completing the 8.5-mile first-of-a-kind bike and run event called the "Leapfrog" Race yesterday in Paupau Beach organized by the NMI Triathlon Federation.

Sublemente, Villafria rule 'Leapfrog' Race

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

Like all the other partners, the tandem of Butch Sublemente and Ronald Villafria raced for fun. The only edge they had was good preparation and strategy that paid handsomely for the dynamic duo.

Sublemente and Villafria won the Northern Mariana Islands Triathlon Federation's "Leapfrog" Race early yesterday morning after a number of the club's regulars showed up late for the competition, reducing them to mere spectators.

Villafria and Sublemente covered the 8.5-mile stretch from Paupau Beach via Kalabera Rd-Pale Arnold Rd. junction and Banzai Cliff and back in only 47.23 seconds and 47.56, respectively. Villafria came in first with the bike before Sublemente arrived for the first runner to complete the race.

See SUBLEMENTE on Page 26

Tinian, Corrections oust foes

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Tinian and the Department of Corrections eliminated their opponents after recording contrasting victories in make-up playoff games in the Inaugural PTI Inter-Government/Business Basketball League Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Tinian defeated Bank of Guam, 101-90, controlling the game early before relaxing a bit in the fourth quarter en route to an 11-point win.

The BOG Express absorbed its second loss in the playoffs and was out of contention for the title.

Tinian, which lost to PTI in the first round of the playoffs via forfeiture, kept its finals bid alive despite playing with only six players against the Express.

J.R. Reyes and Peter Mendiola led Tinian's rousing start combining for 17 to give the visitors an earl 29-17 lead.

Ringo Reyes and Julian Santos joined the scoring spree in the second quarter, which ended

See TINIAN on Page 26

Sixers hand Rollers I first loss

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The San Antonio Sixers prevailed against the Rollers I in an erratic game in the 2008 Saipan Rotary Club Youth Basketball League Friday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Both teams tried to outrun each other, oftentimes losing control and although it was an exciting game with neither team leading by as much as 10 points before the Sixers pulled away in the last five minutes of the fourth quarter.

The match was painful to the eyes as players lost the ball several times, missed layups, and committed dribbling and other violations. Forty-eight fouls were called in the game, the most this season, as players from both teams failed to control their momentum, banging bodies with their foes and even with their teammates.

In the end, the Sixers leaned on their offense and decent free throw shooting to offset their erratic game.

The Ray Duenas-mentored squad was given 10 free throws in the last three minutes of the match and made half of them to preserve a seven-point win.

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The Rollers I's Juan Ogarto is forced to change his shot in midair against the outstretched arm of the Sixers' Nate Flores during their game in the Rotary caging Friday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.